

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to early learning and early grade  
3           success; amending s. 20.055, F.S.; conforming  
4           provisions to changes made by the act; amending s.  
5           20.15, F.S.; deleting the Office of Early Learning  
6           from within the Office of Independent Education and  
7           Parental Choice of the Department of Education;  
8           establishing the Division of Early Learning within the  
9           department; amending s. 39.202, F.S.; conforming  
10          provisions to changes made by the act; amending s.  
11          39.604, F.S.; revising approved child care or early  
12          education settings for the placement of certain  
13          children; conforming a cross-reference to changes made  
14          by the act; amending ss. 212.08, 216.136, 383.14,  
15          391.308, and 402.26, F.S.; conforming provisions and  
16          cross-references to changes made by the act;  
17          transferring, renumbering, and amending s. 402.281,  
18          F.S.; revising the requirements of the Gold Seal  
19          Quality Care program; requiring the State Board of  
20          Education to adopt specified rules; revising  
21          accrediting association requirements; providing  
22          requirements for accrediting associations; requiring  
23          the department to adopt a specified process; providing  
24          requirements for such process; deleting a requirement  
25          for the department to consult certain entities for

26 | specified purposes; providing requirements for certain  
27 | providers to maintain Gold Seal Quality Care status;  
28 | providing exemptions to certain ad valorem taxes;  
29 | providing rate differentials to certain providers;  
30 | providing for a type two transfer of the Gold Seal  
31 | Quality Care program in the Department of Children and  
32 | Families to the Department of Education; providing for  
33 | the continuation of certain contracts and interagency  
34 | agreements; amending s. 402.315, F.S.; conforming a  
35 | cross-reference to changes made by the act; amending  
36 | s. 402.56, F.S.; revising the membership of the  
37 | Children and Youth Cabinet; amending ss. 411.227,  
38 | 414.295, 1000.01, 1000.02, 1000.03, 1000.04, 1000.21,  
39 | 1001.02, 1001.03, 1001.10, and 1001.11, F.S.;  
40 | conforming provisions and cross-references to changes  
41 | made by the act; repealing s. 1001.213, F.S., relating  
42 | to the Office of Early Learning; amending ss.  
43 | 1001.215, 1001.23, 1001.70, 1001.706, 1002.22,  
44 | 1002.32, 1002.34, and 1002.36 F.S.; conforming  
45 | provisions and cross-references to changes made by the  
46 | act; amending s. 1002.53, F.S.; revising the  
47 | requirements for certain program provider profiles;  
48 | requiring students enrolled in the Voluntary  
49 | Prekindergarten Education Program to participate in a  
50 | specified screening and progress monitoring program;

51 amending s. 1002.55, F.S.; authorizing certain child  
52 development programs operating on a military  
53 installment to be private prekindergarten providers  
54 within the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
55 Program; providing that a private prekindergarten  
56 provider is ineligible for participation in the  
57 program under certain circumstances; revising  
58 requirements a prekindergarten instructor must meet;  
59 revising requirements for specified courses for  
60 prekindergarten instructors; providing that a private  
61 school administrator who holds a specified certificate  
62 meets certain credential requirements; providing  
63 liability insurance requirements for child development  
64 programs operating on a military installment  
65 participating in the program; requiring early learning  
66 coalitions to verify private prekindergarten provider  
67 compliance with specified provisions; requiring such  
68 coalitions to remove a providers eligibility under  
69 specified circumstances; amending s. 1002.57, F.S.;  
70 revising the minimum standards for a credential for  
71 certain prekindergarten directors; amending s.  
72 1002.59, F.S.; revising requirements for emergent  
73 literacy and performance standards training courses  
74 for prekindergarten instructors; requiring the  
75 department to make certain courses available; amending

76 s. 1002.61, F.S.; authorizing certain child  
77 development programs operating on a military  
78 installment to be private prekindergarten providers  
79 within the summer Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
80 Program; revising the criteria for a teacher to  
81 receive priority for the summer program in school  
82 district; requiring a child development program  
83 operating on a military installment to comply with  
84 specified criteria; requiring early learning  
85 coalitions to verify specified information; providing  
86 for the removal of a program provider from eligibility  
87 under certain circumstances; amending s. 1002.63,  
88 F.S.; requiring early learning coalitions to verify  
89 specified information; providing for the removal of  
90 public school program providers from the program under  
91 certain circumstances; amending s. 1002.67, F.S.;  
92 revising the performance standards for the Voluntary  
93 Prekindergarten Education Program; requiring the  
94 department to review and revise performance standards  
95 on a specified schedule; revising curriculum  
96 requirements for the program; requiring the department  
97 to adopt procedures for the review and approval of  
98 curricula for the program; deleting a required  
99 preassessment and postassessment for the program;  
100 creating s. 1002.68, F.S.; requiring providers of the

101 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program to  
102 participate in a specified screening and progress  
103 monitoring program; providing specified uses for the  
104 results of such program; requiring certain portions of  
105 the screening and progress monitoring program to be  
106 administered by individuals who meet specified  
107 criteria; requiring the results of specified  
108 assessments to be reported to the parents of  
109 participating students; providing requirements for  
110 such assessments; providing department duties and  
111 responsibilities relating to such assessments;  
112 providing requirements for a specified methodology  
113 used to calculate the results of such assessments;  
114 requiring the department to establish a designation  
115 system for program providers; providing for the  
116 adoption of a minimum performance metric or  
117 designation for program participation; providing  
118 procedures for a provider whose score or designation  
119 falls below the minimum requirement; providing for the  
120 revocation of program eligibility for a provider;  
121 authorizing the department to grant good cause  
122 exemptions to providers under certain circumstances;  
123 providing department and provider requirements for  
124 such exemptions; requiring annual meeting of  
125 representatives from specified entities; repealing s.

126 1002.69, F.S., relating to Statewide kindergarten  
127 screening and readiness rates; amending ss. 1002.71  
128 and 1002.72, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes  
129 made by the act; amending s. 1002.73, F.S.; requiring  
130 the department to adopt a statewide provider contract;  
131 requiring such contract to be published on the  
132 department's website; providing requirements for such  
133 contract; prohibiting providers from offering services  
134 during an appeal of termination from the program;  
135 providing applicability; requiring the department to  
136 adopt specified procedures relating to the Voluntary  
137 Prekindergarten Education Program; providing duties of  
138 the department relating to such program; repealing s.  
139 1002.75, F.S., relating to the powers and duties of  
140 the Office of Early Learning; amending ss. 1002.79 and  
141 1002.81, F.S.; conforming provisions and cross-  
142 references to changes made by the act; amending s.  
143 1002.82, F.S.; providing duties of the department  
144 relating to early learning; exempting certain child  
145 development programs operating on a military  
146 installment from specified inspection requirements;  
147 requiring the department to monitor specified  
148 standards and benchmarks for certain purposes;  
149 revising the age range used for specified standards;  
150 requiring the department to provide specified

151 technical support; revising requirements for a  
152 specified assessment program; requiring the department  
153 to adopt requirements to make certain contracted slots  
154 available to serve specified populations; requiring  
155 the department adopt certain standards and outcome  
156 measures including specified surveys; requiring the  
157 department to adopt procedures for the merging of  
158 early learning coalitions; revising the requirements  
159 for a specified report; amending s. 1002.83, F.S.;  
160 revising the number of authorized early learning  
161 coalitions; revising the number of and requirements  
162 for members of an early learning coalition; revising  
163 requirements for such coalitions; amending s. 1002.84,  
164 F.S.; revising early learning coalition  
165 responsibilities and duties; revising requirements for  
166 the waiver of specified copayments; amending s.  
167 1002.85, F.S.; revising the requirements for school  
168 readiness program plans; amending s. 1002.88, F.S.;  
169 authorizing certain child development programs  
170 operating on military installations to participate in  
171 the school readiness program; revising requirements to  
172 deliver such program; providing that a specified  
173 annual inspection for a child development program  
174 participating in the school readiness program meets  
175 certain provider requirements; providing requirements

176 | for a child development program to meet certain  
177 | liability requirements; amending ss. 1002.89,  
178 | 1002.895, and 1002.91, F.S.; conforming provisions and  
179 | cross-references to changes made by the act; amending  
180 | s. 1002.92, F.S.; revising the requirements for  
181 | specified services child care resources and referral  
182 | agencies must provide; amending s. 1002.93, F.S.;  
183 | conforming provisions to changes made by the act;  
184 | repealing s. 1002.94, F.S., relating to the Child Care  
185 | Executive Partnership Program; amending ss. 1002.95,  
186 | 1002.96, 1002.97, 1002.995, 1003.575, 1004.096, and  
187 | 1007.01, F.S.; conforming provisions and cross-  
188 | references to changes made by the act; creating s.  
189 | 1008.2125, F.S.; creating the coordinated screening  
190 | and progress monitoring program within the department  
191 | for specified purposes; requiring the Commissioner of  
192 | Education to design such program; providing  
193 | requirements for the administration of such program  
194 | and the use of results from the program; providing  
195 | requirements for the commissioner; creating the  
196 | Council for Early Grade Success; providing duties of  
197 | the council; providing membership of the council;  
198 | requiring the council to elect a chair and a vice  
199 | chair; providing requirements for such appointments;  
200 | providing for per diem for members of the council;



201 providing meeting requirements for the council;  
 202 providing for a quorum of the council; amending s.  
 203 1008.25, F.S.; authorizing certain students who  
 204 enrolled in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
 205 Program to receive intensive reading interventions  
 206 using specified funds; amending ss. 1008.31, 1008.32,  
 207 and 1008.33, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes  
 208 made by the act; amending s. 1011.62, F.S.; revising  
 209 the research-based reading instruction allocation to  
 210 authorize the use of such funds for certain intensive  
 211 reading interventions for certain students; revising  
 212 the requirements for specified reading instruction and  
 213 interventions; defining the term "evidence-based;"  
 214 providing appropriations; providing requirements for  
 215 the use of such funds; providing an effective date.

216

217 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

218

219 Section 1. Paragraphs (a) and (d) of subsection (1) of  
 220 section 20.055, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

221 20.055 Agency inspectors general.—

222 (1) As used in this section, the term:

223 (a) "Agency head" means the Governor, a Cabinet officer,  
 224 or a secretary or executive director as those terms are defined  
 225 in s. 20.03, the chair of the Public Service Commission, the

226 Director of the Office of Insurance Regulation of the Financial  
 227 Services Commission, the Director of the Office of Financial  
 228 Regulation of the Financial Services Commission, the board of  
 229 directors of the Florida Housing Finance Corporation, ~~the~~  
 230 ~~executive director of the Office of Early Learning,~~ and the  
 231 Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court.

232 (d) "State agency" means each department created pursuant  
 233 to this chapter and the Executive Office of the Governor, the  
 234 Department of Military Affairs, the Fish and Wildlife  
 235 Conservation Commission, the Office of Insurance Regulation of  
 236 the Financial Services Commission, the Office of Financial  
 237 Regulation of the Financial Services Commission, the Public  
 238 Service Commission, the Board of Governors of the State  
 239 University System, the Florida Housing Finance Corporation, ~~the~~  
 240 ~~Office of Early Learning,~~ and the state courts system.

241 Section 2. Paragraphs (c) through (j) of subsection (3) of  
 242 section 20.15, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs  
 243 (d) through (k), respectively, present paragraph (i) of  
 244 subsection (3) and subsection (5) are amended, and a new  
 245 paragraph (c) is added to subsection (3) of that section, to  
 246 read:

247 20.15 Department of Education.—There is created a  
 248 Department of Education.

249 (3) DIVISIONS.—The following divisions of the Department  
 250 of Education are established:

251 (c) Division of Early Learning.

252 (j)~~(i)~~ The Office of Independent Education and Parental  
 253 Choice, which must include ~~the following offices:~~

254 ~~1. The Office of Early Learning, which shall be~~  
 255 ~~administered by an executive director who is fully accountable~~  
 256 ~~to the Commissioner of Education. The executive director shall,~~  
 257 ~~pursuant to s. 1001.213, administer the early learning programs,~~  
 258 ~~including the school readiness program and the Voluntary~~  
 259 ~~Prekindergarten Education Program at the state level.~~

260 ~~2.~~ the Office of K-12 School Choice, which shall be  
 261 administered by an executive director who is fully accountable  
 262 to the Commissioner of Education.

263 (5) POWERS AND DUTIES.—The State Board of Education and  
 264 the Commissioner of Education shall assign to the divisions such  
 265 powers, duties, responsibilities, and functions as are necessary  
 266 to ensure the greatest possible coordination, efficiency, and  
 267 effectiveness of education for students in Early Learning-20 ~~K-~~  
 268 ~~20~~ education under the jurisdiction of the State Board of  
 269 Education.

270 Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section  
 271 39.202, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

272 39.202 Confidentiality of reports and records in cases of  
 273 child abuse or neglect.—

274 (2) Except as provided in subsection (4), access to such  
 275 records, excluding the name of, or other identifying information

276 with respect to, the reporter which shall be released only as  
 277 provided in subsection (5), shall be granted only to the  
 278 following persons, officials, and agencies:

279 (a) Employees, authorized agents, or contract providers of  
 280 the department, the Department of Health, the Agency for Persons  
 281 with Disabilities, the Department of Education ~~Office of Early~~  
 282 ~~Learning,~~ or county agencies responsible for carrying out:

- 283 1. Child or adult protective investigations;
- 284 2. Ongoing child or adult protective services;
- 285 3. Early intervention and prevention services;
- 286 4. Healthy Start services;
- 287 5. Licensure or approval of adoptive homes, foster homes,  
 288 child care facilities, facilities licensed under chapter 393,  
 289 family day care homes, providers who receive school readiness  
 290 funding under part VI of chapter 1002, or other homes used to  
 291 provide for the care and welfare of children;
- 292 6. Employment screening for caregivers in residential  
 293 group homes; or
- 294 7. Services for victims of domestic violence when provided  
 295 by certified domestic violence centers working at the  
 296 department's request as case consultants or with shared clients.

297  
 298 Also, employees or agents of the Department of Juvenile Justice  
 299 responsible for the provision of services to children, pursuant  
 300 to chapters 984 and 985.

301 Section 4. Paragraph (b) of subsection (5) of section  
 302 39.604, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

303 39.604 Rilya Wilson Act; short title; legislative intent;  
 304 child care; early education; preschool.—

305 (5) EDUCATIONAL STABILITY.—Just as educational stability  
 306 is important for school-age children, it is also important to  
 307 minimize disruptions to secure attachments and stable  
 308 relationships with supportive caregivers of children from birth  
 309 to school age and to ensure that these attachments are not  
 310 disrupted due to placement in out-of-home care or subsequent  
 311 changes in out-of-home placement.

312 (b) If it is not in the best interest of the child for him  
 313 or her to remain in his or her child care or early education  
 314 setting upon entry into out-of-home care, the caregiver must  
 315 work with the case manager, guardian ad litem, child care and  
 316 educational staff, and educational surrogate, if one has been  
 317 appointed, to determine the best setting for the child. Such  
 318 setting may be a child care provider that receives a Gold Seal  
 319 Quality Care designation pursuant to s. 1002.945 ~~s. 402.281~~, a  
 320 ~~provider participating in a quality rating system~~, a licensed  
 321 child care provider, a public school provider, or a license-  
 322 exempt child care provider, including religious-exempt and  
 323 registered providers, and nonpublic schools.

324 Section 5. Paragraph (m) of subsection (5) of section  
 325 212.08, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

326           212.08 Sales, rental, use, consumption, distribution, and  
 327 storage tax; specified exemptions.—The sale at retail, the  
 328 rental, the use, the consumption, the distribution, and the  
 329 storage to be used or consumed in this state of the following  
 330 are hereby specifically exempt from the tax imposed by this  
 331 chapter.

332           (5) EXEMPTIONS; ACCOUNT OF USE.—

333           (m) Educational materials purchased by certain child care  
 334 facilities.—Educational materials, such as glue, paper, paints,  
 335 crayons, unique craft items, scissors, books, ~~and~~ educational  
 336 toys, purchased by a child care facility that meets the  
 337 standards delineated in s. 402.305, is licensed under s.  
 338 402.308, holds a current Gold Seal Quality Care designation  
 339 pursuant to s. 1002.945 ~~s. 402.281~~, and provides basic health  
 340 insurance to all employees are exempt from the taxes imposed by  
 341 this chapter. For purposes of this paragraph, the term "basic  
 342 health insurance" shall be defined and promulgated in rules  
 343 developed jointly by the Department of Education ~~Children and~~  
 344 ~~Families~~, the Agency for Health Care Administration, and the  
 345 Financial Services Commission.

346           Section 6. Paragraph (b) of subsection (8) of section  
 347 216.136, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

348           216.136 Consensus estimating conferences; duties and  
 349 principals.—

350           (8) EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS ESTIMATING CONFERENCE.—

351           (b) The Division ~~Office~~ of Early Learning shall provide  
352 information on needs and waiting lists for school readiness  
353 programs, and information on the needs for the Voluntary  
354 Prekindergarten Education Program, as requested by the Early  
355 Learning Programs Estimating Conference or individual conference  
356 principals in a timely manner.

357           Section 7. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) and paragraph  
358 (b) of subsection (2) of section 383.14, Florida Statutes, are  
359 amended to read:

360           383.14 Screening for metabolic disorders, other hereditary  
361 and congenital disorders, and environmental risk factors.—

362           (1) SCREENING REQUIREMENTS.—To help ensure access to the  
363 maternal and child health care system, the Department of Health  
364 shall promote the screening of all newborns born in Florida for  
365 metabolic, hereditary, and congenital disorders known to result  
366 in significant impairment of health or intellect, as screening  
367 programs accepted by current medical practice become available  
368 and practical in the judgment of the department. The department  
369 shall also promote the identification and screening of all  
370 newborns in this state and their families for environmental risk  
371 factors such as low income, poor education, maternal and family  
372 stress, emotional instability, substance abuse, and other high-  
373 risk conditions associated with increased risk of infant  
374 mortality and morbidity to provide early intervention,  
375 remediation, and prevention services, including, but not limited

376 to, parent support and training programs, home visitation, and  
377 case management. Identification, perinatal screening, and  
378 intervention efforts shall begin prior to and immediately  
379 following the birth of the child by the attending health care  
380 provider. Such efforts shall be conducted in hospitals,  
381 perinatal centers, county health departments, school health  
382 programs that provide prenatal care, and birthing centers, and  
383 reported to the Office of Vital Statistics.

384 (b) Postnatal screening.—A risk factor analysis using the  
385 department's designated risk assessment instrument shall also be  
386 conducted as part of the medical screening process upon the  
387 birth of a child and submitted to the department's Office of  
388 Vital Statistics for recording and other purposes provided for  
389 in this chapter. The department's screening process for risk  
390 assessment shall include a scoring mechanism and procedures that  
391 establish thresholds for notification, further assessment,  
392 referral, and eligibility for services by professionals or  
393 paraprofessionals consistent with the level of risk. Procedures  
394 for developing and using the screening instrument, notification,  
395 referral, and care coordination services, reporting  
396 requirements, management information, and maintenance of a  
397 computer-driven registry in the Office of Vital Statistics which  
398 ensures privacy safeguards must be consistent with the  
399 provisions and plans established under chapter 411, Pub. L. No.  
400 99-457, and this chapter. Procedures established for reporting



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401 information and maintaining a confidential registry must include  
402 a mechanism for a centralized information depository at the  
403 state and county levels. The department shall coordinate with  
404 existing risk assessment systems and information registries. The  
405 department must ensure, to the maximum extent possible, that the  
406 screening information registry is integrated with the  
407 department's automated data systems, including the Florida On-  
408 line Recipient Integrated Data Access (FLORIDA) system. Tests  
409 and screenings must be performed by the State Public Health  
410 Laboratory, in coordination with Children's Medical Services, at  
411 such times and in such manner as is prescribed by the department  
412 after consultation with the Genetics and Newborn Screening  
413 Advisory Council and the Department of Education ~~Office of Early~~  
414 ~~Learning~~.

415 (2) RULES.—

416 (b) After consultation with the Department of Education  
417 ~~Office of Early Learning~~, the department shall adopt and enforce  
418 rules requiring every newborn in this state to be screened for  
419 environmental risk factors that place children and their  
420 families at risk for increased morbidity, mortality, and other  
421 negative outcomes.

422 Section 8. Paragraph (h) of subsection (2) of section  
423 391.308, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

424 391.308 Early Steps Program.—The department shall  
425 implement and administer part C of the federal Individuals with

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426 Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), which shall be known as the  
 427 "Early Steps Program."

428 (2) DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT.—The department shall:

429 (h) Promote interagency cooperation and coordination, with  
 430 the Medicaid program, the Department of Education program  
 431 pursuant to part B of the federal Individuals with Disabilities  
 432 Education Act, and programs providing child screening such as  
 433 the Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System, ~~the Office~~  
 434 ~~of Early Learning~~, Healthy Start, and the Help Me Grow program.

435 1. Coordination with the Medicaid program shall be  
 436 developed and maintained through written agreements with the  
 437 Agency for Health Care Administration and Medicaid managed care  
 438 organizations as well as through active and ongoing  
 439 communication with these organizations. The department shall  
 440 assist local program offices to negotiate agreements with  
 441 Medicaid managed care organizations in the service areas of the  
 442 local program offices. Such agreements may be formal or  
 443 informal.

444 2. Coordination with education programs pursuant to part B  
 445 of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act shall  
 446 be developed and maintained through written agreements with the  
 447 Department of Education. The department shall assist local  
 448 program offices to negotiate agreements with school districts in  
 449 the service areas of the local program offices.

450 Section 9. Subsection (6) of section 402.26, Florida

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451 Statutes, is amended to read:

452 402.26 Child care; legislative intent.—

453 ~~(6) It is the intent of the Legislature that a child care~~  
454 ~~facility licensed pursuant to s. 402.305 or a child care~~  
455 ~~facility exempt from licensing pursuant to s. 402.316, that~~  
456 ~~achieves Gold Seal Quality status pursuant to s. 402.281, be~~  
457 ~~considered an educational institution for the purpose of~~  
458 ~~qualifying for exemption from ad valorem tax pursuant to s.~~  
459 ~~196.198.~~

460 Section 10. Section 402.281, Florida Statutes, is  
461 transferred, renumbered as section 1002.945, Florida Statutes,  
462 and amended to read:

463 1002.945 ~~402.281~~ Gold Seal Quality Care program.—

464 (1) (a) There is established within the Department of  
465 Education the Gold Seal Quality Care Program.

466 (b) A child care facility, large family child care home,  
467 or family day care home that is accredited by an accrediting  
468 association approved by the Department of Education under  
469 subsection (3) and meets all other requirements shall, upon  
470 application to the department, receive a separate "Gold Seal  
471 Quality Care" designation.

472 (2) The State Board of Education ~~department~~ shall adopt  
473 rules establishing Gold Seal Quality Care accreditation  
474 standards using nationally recognized accrediting standards and  
475 input from accrediting associations ~~based on the applicable~~

476 ~~accrediting standards of the National Association for the~~  
477 ~~Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the National Association of~~  
478 ~~Family Child Care, and the National Early Childhood Program~~  
479 ~~Accreditation Commission.~~

480 (3) (a) In order to be approved by the Department of  
481 Education for participation in the Gold Seal Quality Care  
482 program, an accrediting association must apply to the department  
483 and demonstrate that it:

484 1. Is a recognized accrediting association.

485 2. Has accrediting standards that substantially meet or  
486 exceed the Gold Seal Quality Care standards adopted by the state  
487 board department under subsection (2).

488 3. Is a registered corporation with the Department of  
489 State.

490 4. Can provide evidence that the process for accreditation  
491 has, at a minimum, all of the following components:

492 a. Clearly defined prerequisites that a child care  
493 provider must meet before beginning the accreditation process.  
494 However, accreditation may not be granted to a child care  
495 facility, large family child care home, or family day care home  
496 before the site is operational and is attended by children.

497 b. Procedures for completion of a self-study and  
498 comprehensive onsite verification process for each classroom  
499 that documents compliance with accrediting standards.

500 c. A training process for accreditation verifiers to

501 ensure inter-rater reliability.

502 d. Ongoing compliance procedures that include requiring  
503 each accredited child care facility, large family child care  
504 home, and family day care home to file an annual report with the  
505 accrediting association and risk-based, onsite auditing  
506 protocols for accredited child care facilities, large family  
507 child care homes, and family day care homes.

508 e. Procedures for the revocation of accreditation due to  
509 failure to maintain accrediting standards as evidenced by sub-  
510 subparagraph d. or any other relevant information received by  
511 the accrediting association.

512 f. Accreditation renewal procedures that include an onsite  
513 verification occurring at least every 5 years.

514 g. A process for verifying continued accreditation  
515 compliance in the event of a transfer of ownership of  
516 facilities.

517 h. A process to communicate issues that arise during the  
518 accreditation period with governmental entities that have a  
519 vested interest in the Gold Seal Quality Care Program, including  
520 the Department of Education, the Department of Children and  
521 Families, the Department of Health, local licensing entities if  
522 applicable, and the early learning coalition.

523 (b) The Department of Education shall establish a process  
524 that verifies that the accrediting association meets the  
525 provisions of paragraph (a), which must include an auditing

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526 program and any other procedures that may reasonably determine  
527 an accrediting association's compliance with this section. If an  
528 accrediting association is not in compliance and fails to cure  
529 its deficiencies within 30 days, the department shall recommend  
530 to the state board termination of the accrediting association's  
531 participation as an accrediting association in the program for a  
532 period of at least 2 years but no more than 5 years. If an  
533 accrediting association is removed from being an approved  
534 accrediting association, each child care provider accredited by  
535 that association shall have up to 1 year to obtain a new  
536 accreditation from a department approved accreditation  
537 association.

538 (c) If an accrediting association has granted  
539 accreditation to a child care facility, large family child care  
540 home, or family day care under fraudulent terms or failed to  
541 conduct onsite verifications, the accrediting association shall  
542 be liable for the repayment of any rate differentials paid under  
543 subsection (6).

544 ~~(b) In approving accrediting associations, the department~~  
545 ~~shall consult with the Department of Education, the Florida Head~~  
546 ~~Start Directors Association, the Florida Association of Child~~  
547 ~~Care Management, the Florida Family Child Care Home Association,~~  
548 ~~the Florida Children's Forum, the Florida Association for the~~  
549 ~~Education of the Young, the Child Development Education~~  
550 ~~Alliance, the Florida Association of Academic Nonpublic Schools,~~

551 ~~the Association of Early Learning Coalitions, providers~~  
552 ~~receiving exemptions under s. 402.316, and parents.~~

553 (4) In order to obtain and maintain a designation as a  
554 Gold Seal Quality Care provider, a child care facility, large  
555 family child care home, or family day care home must meet the  
556 following additional criteria:

557 (a) The child care provider must not have had any class I  
558 violations, as defined by rule of the Department of Children and  
559 Families, within the 2 years preceding its application for  
560 designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider. Commission of  
561 a class I violation shall be grounds for termination of the  
562 designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider until the  
563 provider has no class I violations for a period of 2 years.

564 (b) The child care provider must not have had three or  
565 more class II violations, as defined by rule of the Department  
566 of Children and Families, within the 2 years preceding its  
567 application for designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care  
568 provider. Commission of three or more class II violations within  
569 a 2-year period shall be grounds for termination of the  
570 designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider until the  
571 provider has no class II violations for a period of 1 year.

572 (c) The child care provider must not have been cited for  
573 the same class III violation, as defined by rule of the  
574 Department of Children and Families, three or more times and  
575 failed to correct the violation within 1 year after the date of

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576 each citation, within the 2 years preceding its application for  
577 designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider. Commission of  
578 the same class III violation three or more times and failure to  
579 correct within the required time during a 2-year period may be  
580 grounds for termination of the designation as a Gold Seal  
581 Quality Care provider until the provider has no class III  
582 violations for a period of 1 year.

583 (d) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), if the Department of  
584 Education determines through a formal process that a provider  
585 has been in business for at least 5 years and has no other class  
586 I violations recorded, the department may recommend to the state  
587 board that the provider maintain its Gold Seal Quality Care  
588 status. The state board's determination regarding such  
589 provider's status is final.

590 (5) A child care facility licensed under s. 402.305 or a  
591 child care facility exempt from licensing under s. 402.316 which  
592 achieves Gold Seal Quality status under this section shall be  
593 considered an educational institution for the purpose of  
594 qualifying for exemption from ad valorem tax under s. 196.198.

595 (6) A child care facility licensed under s. 402.305 or a  
596 child care facility exempt from licensing pursuant to s. 402.316  
597 which achieves Gold Seal Quality status under this section and  
598 which participates in the school readiness program shall receive  
599 a minimum of a 20 percent rate differential for each enrolled  
600 school readiness child by care level and unit of child care.



601        ~~(7)-(5)~~ The state board ~~Department of Children and Families~~  
602 shall adopt rules under ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 which provide  
603 criteria and procedures for reviewing and approving accrediting  
604 associations for participation in the Gold Seal Quality Care  
605 program and, ~~conferring and revoking designations of Gold Seal~~  
606 ~~Quality Care providers, and classifying violations.~~

607        Section 11. Type two transfer from the Department of  
608 Children and Families.-

609        (1) All powers, duties, functions, records, offices,  
610 personnel, associated administrative support positions,  
611 property, pending issues, existing contracts, administrative  
612 authority, administrative rules, and unexpended balances of  
613 appropriations, allocations, and other funds relating to the  
614 Gold Seal Quality Care program within the Department of Children  
615 and Families are transferred by a type two transfer, as defined  
616 in s. 20.06(2), Florida Statutes, to the Department of  
617 Education.

618        (2) Any binding contract or interagency agreement existing  
619 before July 1, 2021, between the Department of Children and  
620 Families, or an entity or agent of the department, and any other  
621 agency, entity, or person relating to the Gold Seal Quality Care  
622 program shall continue as a binding contract or agreement for  
623 the remainder of the term of such contract or agreement on the  
624 successor entity responsible for the program, activity, or  
625 functions relative to the contract or agreement.

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626 Section 12. Subsection (5) of section 402.315, Florida  
 627 Statutes, is amended to read:

628 402.315 Funding; license fees.—

629 (5) All moneys collected by the department for child care  
 630 licensing shall be held in a trust fund of the department to be  
 631 reallocated to the department during the following fiscal year  
 632 to fund child care licensing activities, including the Gold Seal  
 633 Quality Care program created pursuant to s. 1002.945 ~~s. 402.281~~.

634 Section 13. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section  
 635 402.56, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

636 402.56 Children's cabinet; organization; responsibilities;  
 637 annual report.—

638 (4) MEMBERS.—The cabinet shall consist of 16 members  
 639 including the Governor and the following persons:

- 640 (a)1. The Secretary of Children and Families;
- 641 2. The Secretary of Juvenile Justice;
- 642 3. The director of the Agency for Persons with
- 643 Disabilities;
- 644 4. A representative from the Division ~~The director of the~~  
 645 ~~Office~~ of Early Learning;
- 646 5. The State Surgeon General;
- 647 6. The Secretary of Health Care Administration;
- 648 7. The Commissioner of Education;
- 649 8. The director of the Statewide Guardian Ad Litem Office;
- 650 9. A representative of the Office of Adoption and Child

651 Protection;

652 10. A superintendent of schools, appointed by the  
653 Governor; and

654 11. Five members who represent children and youth advocacy  
655 organizations and who are not service providers, appointed by  
656 the Governor.

657 Section 14. Paragraph (d) of subsection (1), paragraph (a)  
658 of subsection (2), and paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of  
659 section 411.227, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

660 411.227 Components of the Learning Gateway.—The Learning  
661 Gateway system consists of the following components:

662 (1) COMMUNITY EDUCATION STRATEGIES AND FAMILY-ORIENTED  
663 ACCESS.—

664 (d) In collaboration with other local resources, the  
665 demonstration projects shall develop public awareness strategies  
666 to disseminate information about developmental milestones,  
667 precursors of learning problems and other developmental delays,  
668 and the service system that is available. The information should  
669 target parents of children from birth through age 9 and should  
670 be distributed to parents, health care providers, and caregivers  
671 of children from birth through age 9. A variety of media should  
672 be used as appropriate, such as print, television, radio, and a  
673 community-based Internet website, as well as opportunities such  
674 as those presented by parent visits to physicians for well-child  
675 checkups. The Learning Gateway Steering Committee shall provide

676 technical assistance to the local demonstration projects in  
677 developing and distributing educational materials and  
678 information.

679 1. Public awareness strategies targeting parents of  
680 children from birth through age 5 shall be designed to provide  
681 information to public and private preschool programs, child care  
682 providers, pediatricians, parents, and local businesses and  
683 organizations. These strategies should include information on  
684 the school readiness performance standards adopted by the  
685 Department of Education ~~Office of Early Learning~~.

686 2. Public awareness strategies targeting parents of  
687 children from ages 6 through 9 must be designed to disseminate  
688 training materials and brochures to parents and public and  
689 private school personnel, and must be coordinated with the local  
690 school board and the appropriate school advisory committees in  
691 the demonstration projects. The materials should contain  
692 information on state and district proficiency levels for grades  
693 K-3.

694 (2) SCREENING AND DEVELOPMENTAL MONITORING.—

695 (a) In coordination with ~~the Office of Early Learning~~, the  
696 Department of Education, and the Florida Pediatric Society, and  
697 using information learned from the local demonstration projects,  
698 the Learning Gateway Steering Committee shall establish  
699 guidelines for screening children from birth through age 9. The  
700 guidelines should incorporate recent research on the indicators

701 most likely to predict early learning problems, mild  
 702 developmental delays, child-specific precursors of school  
 703 failure, and other related developmental indicators in the  
 704 domains of cognition; communication; attention; perception;  
 705 behavior; and social, emotional, sensory, and motor functioning.

706 (3) EARLY EDUCATION, SERVICES AND SUPPORTS.—

707 (c) The steering committee, in cooperation with the  
 708 Department of Children and Families and, the Department of  
 709 Education, ~~and the Office of Early Learning~~, shall identify the  
 710 elements of an effective research-based curriculum for early  
 711 care and education programs.

712 Section 15. Subsection (1) of section 414.295, Florida  
 713 Statutes, is amended to read:

714 414.295 Temporary cash assistance programs; public records  
 715 exemption.—

716 (1) Personal identifying information of a temporary cash  
 717 assistance program participant, a participant's family, or a  
 718 participant's family or household member, except for information  
 719 identifying a parent who does not live in the same home as the  
 720 child, which is held by the department, ~~the Office of Early~~  
 721 ~~Learning~~, CareerSource Florida, Inc., the Department of Health,  
 722 the Department of Revenue, the Department of Education, or a  
 723 local workforce development board or local committee created  
 724 pursuant to s. 445.007 is confidential and exempt from s.  
 725 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. Such

726 confidential and exempt information may be released for purposes  
 727 directly connected with:

728 (a) The administration of the temporary assistance for  
 729 needy families plan under Title IV-A of the Social Security Act,  
 730 as amended, by the department, ~~the Office of Early Learning,~~  
 731 CareerSource Florida, Inc., the Department of Military Affairs,  
 732 the Department of Health, the Department of Revenue, the  
 733 Department of Education, a local workforce development board or  
 734 local committee created pursuant to s. 445.007, or a school  
 735 district.

736 (b) The administration of the state's plan or program  
 737 approved under Title IV-B, Title IV-D, or Title IV-E of the  
 738 Social Security Act, as amended, or under Title I, Title X,  
 739 Title XIV, Title XVI, Title XIX, Title XX, or Title XXI of the  
 740 Social Security Act, as amended.

741 (c) An investigation, prosecution, or criminal, civil, or  
 742 administrative proceeding conducted in connection with the  
 743 administration of any of the plans or programs specified in  
 744 paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) by a federal, state, or local  
 745 governmental entity, upon request by that entity, if such  
 746 request is made pursuant to the proper exercise of that entity's  
 747 duties and responsibilities.

748 (d) The administration of any other state, federal, or  
 749 federally assisted program that provides assistance or services  
 750 on the basis of need, in cash or in kind, directly to a

751 participant.

752 (e) An audit or similar activity, such as a review of  
 753 expenditure reports or financial review, conducted in connection  
 754 with the administration of plans or programs specified in  
 755 paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) by a governmental entity  
 756 authorized by law to conduct such audit or activity.

757 (f) The administration of the reemployment assistance  
 758 program.

759 (g) The reporting to the appropriate agency or official of  
 760 information about known or suspected instances of physical or  
 761 mental injury, sexual abuse or exploitation, or negligent  
 762 treatment or maltreatment of a child or elderly person receiving  
 763 assistance, if circumstances indicate that the health or welfare  
 764 of the child or elderly person is threatened.

765 (h) The administration of services to elderly persons  
 766 under ss. 430.601-430.606.

767 Section 16. Section 1000.01, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 768 to read:

769 1000.01 The Florida Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education  
 770 system; technical provisions.—

771 (1) NAME.—Chapters 1000 through 1013 shall be known and  
 772 cited as the "Florida Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ Education Code."

773 (2) LIBERAL CONSTRUCTION.—The provisions of the Florida  
 774 Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ Education Code shall be liberally  
 775 construed to the end that its objectives may be effected. It is

776 the legislative intent that if any section, subsection,  
777 sentence, clause, or provision of the Florida Early Learning-20  
778 ~~K-20~~ Education Code is held invalid, the remainder of the code  
779 shall not be affected.

780 (3) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Florida Early Learning-20  
781 ~~K-20~~ Education Code is to provide by law for a state system of  
782 schools, courses, classes, and educational institutions and  
783 services adequate to allow, for all Florida's students, the  
784 opportunity to obtain a high quality education. The Florida  
785 Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system is established to  
786 accomplish this purpose; however, nothing in this code shall be  
787 construed to require the provision of free public education  
788 beyond grade 12.

789 (4) UNIFORM SYSTEM OF PUBLIC K-12 SCHOOLS INCLUDED.—As  
790 required by s. 1, Art. IX of the State Constitution, the Florida  
791 Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system shall include the  
792 uniform system of free public K-12 schools. These public K-12  
793 schools shall provide 13 consecutive years of instruction,  
794 beginning with kindergarten, and shall also provide such  
795 instruction for students with disabilities, gifted students,  
796 limited English proficient students, and students in Department  
797 of Juvenile Justice programs as may be required by law. The  
798 funds for support and maintenance of the uniform system of free  
799 public K-12 schools shall be derived from state, district,  
800 federal, and other lawful sources or combinations of sources,



801 including any fees charged nonresidents as provided by law.

802 Section 17. Paragraph (a) of Subsection (1) and subsection  
803 (2) of section 1000.02, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

804 1000.02 Policy and guiding principles for the Florida  
805 Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system.—

806 (1) It is the policy of the Legislature:

807 (a) To achieve within existing resources a seamless  
808 academic educational system that fosters an integrated continuum  
809 of early learning ~~kindergarten~~ through graduate school education  
810 for Florida's students.

811 (2) The guiding principles for Florida's Early Learning-20  
812 ~~K-20~~ education system are:

813 (a) A coordinated, seamless system for early learning  
814 ~~kindergarten~~ through graduate school education.

815 (b) A system that is student-centered in every facet.

816 (c) A system that maximizes education access and allows  
817 the opportunity for a high quality education for all Floridians.

818 (d) A system that safeguards equity and supports academic  
819 excellence.

820 (e) A system that provides for local operational  
821 flexibility while promoting accountability for student  
822 achievement and improvement.

823 Section 18. Section 1000.03, Florida Statutes, is amended  
824 to read:

825 1000.03 Function, mission, and goals of the Florida Early

826 Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system.-

827 (1) Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system  
828 shall be a decentralized system without excess layers of  
829 bureaucracy. Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system  
830 shall maintain a systemwide technology plan based on a common  
831 set of data definitions.

832 (2) (a) The Legislature shall establish education policy,  
833 enact education laws, and appropriate and allocate education  
834 resources.

835 (b) With the exception of matters relating to the State  
836 University System, the State Board of Education shall oversee  
837 the enforcement of all laws and rules, and the timely provision  
838 of direction, resources, assistance, intervention when needed,  
839 and strong incentives and disincentives to force accountability  
840 for results.

841 (c) The Board of Governors shall oversee the enforcement  
842 of all state university laws and rules and regulations and the  
843 timely provision of direction, resources, assistance,  
844 intervention when needed, and strong incentives and  
845 disincentives to force accountability for results.

846 (3) Public education is a cooperative function of the  
847 state and local educational authorities. The state retains  
848 responsibility for establishing a system of public education  
849 through laws, standards, and rules to assure efficient operation  
850 of an Early Learning-20 a ~~K-20~~ system of public education and

851 adequate educational opportunities for all individuals. Local  
852 educational authorities have a duty to fully and faithfully  
853 comply with state laws, standards, and rules and to efficiently  
854 use the resources available to them to assist the state in  
855 allowing adequate educational opportunities.

856 (4) The mission of Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~  
857 education system is to allow its students to increase their  
858 proficiency by allowing them the opportunity to expand their  
859 knowledge and skills through rigorous and relevant learning  
860 opportunities, in accordance with the mission statement and  
861 accountability requirements of s. 1008.31.

862 (5) The priorities of Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~  
863 education system include:

864 (a) Learning and completion at all levels, including  
865 increased high school graduation rate and readiness for  
866 postsecondary education without remediation.—All students  
867 demonstrate increased learning and completion at all levels,  
868 graduate from high school, and are prepared to enter  
869 postsecondary education without remediation.

870 (b) Student performance.—Students demonstrate that they  
871 meet the expected academic standards consistently at all levels  
872 of their education.

873 (c) Civic literacy.—Students are prepared to become  
874 civically engaged and knowledgeable adults who make positive  
875 contributions to their communities.

876 (d) Alignment of standards and resources.—Academic  
877 standards for every level of the Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~  
878 education system are aligned, and education financial resources  
879 are aligned with student performance expectations at each level  
880 of the Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system.

881 (e) Educational leadership.—The quality of educational  
882 leadership at all levels of Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education is  
883 improved.

884 (f) Workforce education.—Workforce education is  
885 appropriately aligned with the skills required by the new global  
886 economy.

887 (g) Parental, student, family, educational institution,  
888 and community involvement.—Parents, students, families,  
889 educational institutions, and communities are collaborative  
890 partners in education, and each plays an important role in the  
891 success of individual students. Therefore, the State of Florida  
892 cannot be the guarantor of each individual student's success.  
893 The goals of Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system  
894 are not guarantees that each individual student will succeed or  
895 that each individual school will perform at the level indicated  
896 in the goals.

897 (h) Comprehensive Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ career and  
898 education planning.—It is essential that Florida's Early  
899 Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system better prepare all students at  
900 every level for the transition from school to postsecondary

901 education or work by providing information regarding:

902 1. Career opportunities, educational requirements  
 903 associated with each career, educational institutions that  
 904 prepare students to enter each career, and student financial aid  
 905 available to pursue postsecondary instruction required to enter  
 906 each career.

907 2. How to make informed decisions about the program of  
 908 study that best addresses the students' interests and abilities  
 909 while preparing them to enter postsecondary education or the  
 910 workforce.

911 3. Recommended coursework and programs that prepare  
 912 students for success in their areas of interest and ability.

913  
 914 This information shall be provided to students and parents  
 915 through websites, handbooks, manuals, or other regularly  
 916 provided communications.

917 Section 19. Section 1000.04, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 918 to read:

919 1000.04 Components for the delivery of public education  
 920 within the Florida Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system.—  
 921 Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system provides for  
 922 the delivery of early learning and public education through  
 923 publicly supported and controlled K-12 schools, Florida College  
 924 System institutions, state universities and other postsecondary  
 925 educational institutions, other educational institutions, and

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926 other educational services as provided or authorized by the  
927 Constitution and laws of the state.

928 (1) EARLY LEARNING.—Early learning includes the Voluntary  
929 Prekindergarten Education Program and the school readiness  
930 program.

931 (2)~~(1)~~ PUBLIC K-12 SCHOOLS.—The public K-12 schools  
932 include charter schools and consist of kindergarten classes;  
933 elementary, middle, and high school grades and special classes;  
934 virtual instruction programs; workforce education; career  
935 centers; adult, part-time, and evening schools, courses, or  
936 classes, as authorized by law to be operated under the control  
937 of district school boards; and lab schools operated under the  
938 control of state universities.

939 (3)~~(2)~~ PUBLIC POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.—  
940 Public postsecondary educational institutions include workforce  
941 education; Florida College System institutions; state  
942 universities; and all other state-supported postsecondary  
943 educational institutions that are authorized and established by  
944 law.

945 (4)~~(3)~~ FLORIDA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND.—The  
946 Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind is a component of the  
947 delivery of public education within Florida's Early Learning-20  
948 ~~K-20~~ education system.

949 (5)~~(4)~~ THE FLORIDA VIRTUAL SCHOOL.—The Florida Virtual  
950 School is a component of the delivery of public education within

951 Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system.

952 Section 20. Section 1000.21, Florida Statutes, is amended  
953 to read:

954 1000.21 Systemwide definitions.—As used in the Florida  
955 Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ Education Code:

956 (1) "Articulation" is the systematic coordination that  
957 provides the means by which students proceed toward their  
958 educational objectives in as rapid and student-friendly manner  
959 as their circumstances permit, from grade level to grade level,  
960 from elementary to middle to high school, to and through  
961 postsecondary education, and when transferring from one  
962 educational institution or program to another.

963 (2) "Commissioner" is the Commissioner of Education.

964 (3) "Florida College System institution" except as  
965 otherwise specifically provided, includes all of the following  
966 public postsecondary educational institutions in the Florida  
967 College System and any branch campuses, centers, or other  
968 affiliates of the institution:

969 (a) Eastern Florida State College, which serves Brevard  
970 County.

971 (b) Broward College, which serves Broward County.

972 (c) College of Central Florida, which serves Citrus, Levy,  
973 and Marion Counties.

974 (d) Chipola College, which serves Calhoun, Holmes,  
975 Jackson, Liberty, and Washington Counties.

- 976 (e) Daytona State College, which serves Flagler and  
 977 Volusia Counties.
- 978 (f) Florida SouthWestern State College, which serves  
 979 Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, and Lee Counties.
- 980 (g) Florida State College at Jacksonville, which serves  
 981 Duval and Nassau Counties.
- 982 (h) The College of the Florida Keys, which serves Monroe  
 983 County.
- 984 (i) Gulf Coast State College, which serves Bay, Franklin,  
 985 and Gulf Counties.
- 986 (j) Hillsborough Community College, which serves  
 987 Hillsborough County.
- 988 (k) Indian River State College, which serves Indian River,  
 989 Martin, Okeechobee, and St. Lucie Counties.
- 990 (l) Florida Gateway College, which serves Baker, Columbia,  
 991 Dixie, Gilchrist, and Union Counties.
- 992 (m) Lake-Sumter State College, which serves Lake and  
 993 Sumter Counties.
- 994 (n) State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota, which  
 995 serves Manatee and Sarasota Counties.
- 996 (o) Miami Dade College, which serves Miami-Dade County.
- 997 (p) North Florida College, which serves Hamilton,  
 998 Jefferson, Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee, and Taylor Counties.
- 999 (q) Northwest Florida State College, which serves Okaloosa  
 1000 and Walton Counties.



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- 1001 (r) Palm Beach State College, which serves Palm Beach  
 1002 County.
- 1003 (s) Pasco-Hernando State College, which serves Hernando  
 1004 and Pasco Counties.
- 1005 (t) Pensacola State College, which serves Escambia and  
 1006 Santa Rosa Counties.
- 1007 (u) Polk State College, which serves Polk County.
- 1008 (v) St. Johns River State College, which serves Clay,  
 1009 Putnam, and St. Johns Counties.
- 1010 (w) St. Petersburg College, which serves Pinellas County.
- 1011 (x) Santa Fe College, which serves Alachua and Bradford  
 1012 Counties.
- 1013 (y) Seminole State College of Florida, which serves  
 1014 Seminole County.
- 1015 (z) South Florida State College, which serves DeSoto,  
 1016 Hardee, and Highlands Counties.
- 1017 (aa) Tallahassee Community College, which serves Gadsden,  
 1018 Leon, and Wakulla Counties.
- 1019 (bb) Valencia College, which serves Orange and Osceola  
 1020 Counties.
- 1021 (4) "Department" is the Department of Education.
- 1022 (5) "Parent" is either or both parents of a student, any  
 1023 guardian of a student, any person in a parental relationship to  
 1024 a student, or any person exercising supervisory authority over a  
 1025 student in place of the parent.

1026 (6) "State university," except as otherwise specifically  
 1027 provided, includes the following institutions and any branch  
 1028 campuses, centers, or other affiliates of the institution:

- 1029 (a) The University of Florida.
- 1030 (b) The Florida State University.
- 1031 (c) The Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University.
- 1032 (d) The University of South Florida.
- 1033 (e) The Florida Atlantic University.
- 1034 (f) The University of West Florida.
- 1035 (g) The University of Central Florida.
- 1036 (h) The University of North Florida.
- 1037 (i) The Florida International University.
- 1038 (j) The Florida Gulf Coast University.
- 1039 (k) New College of Florida.
- 1040 (l) The Florida Polytechnic University.

1041 (7) "Next Generation Sunshine State Standards" means the  
 1042 state's public K-12 curricular standards adopted under s.  
 1043 1003.41.

1044 (8) "Board of Governors" is the Board of Governors of the  
 1045 State University System.

1046 Section 21. Subsection (1) and paragraphs (e) and (s) of  
 1047 subsection (2) of section 1001.02, Florida Statutes, are amended  
 1048 to read:

1049 1001.02 General powers of State Board of Education.—

1050 (1) The State Board of Education is the chief implementing

1051 and coordinating body of public education in Florida except for  
1052 the State University System, and it shall focus on high-level  
1053 policy decisions. It has authority to adopt rules pursuant to  
1054 ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement the provisions of law  
1055 conferring duties upon it for the improvement of the state  
1056 system of Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ public education except for the  
1057 State University System. Except as otherwise provided herein, it  
1058 may, as it finds appropriate, delegate its general powers to the  
1059 Commissioner of Education or the directors of the divisions of  
1060 the department.

1061 (2) The State Board of Education has the following duties:

1062 (e) To adopt and submit to the Governor and Legislature,  
1063 as provided in s. 216.023, a coordinated Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~  
1064 education budget that estimates the expenditure requirements for  
1065 the Board of Governors, as provided in s. 1001.706, the State  
1066 Board of Education, including the Department of Education and  
1067 the Commissioner of Education, and all of the boards,  
1068 institutions, agencies, and services under the general  
1069 supervision of the Board of Governors, as provided in s.  
1070 1001.706, or the State Board of Education for the ensuing fiscal  
1071 year. The State Board of Education may not amend the budget  
1072 request submitted by the Board of Governors. Any program  
1073 recommended by the Board of Governors or the State Board of  
1074 Education which will require increases in state funding for more  
1075 than 1 year must be presented in a multiyear budget plan.

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1076 (s) To establish a detailed procedure for the  
 1077 implementation and operation of a systemwide ~~K-20~~ technology  
 1078 plan that is based on a common set of data definitions.

1079 Section 22. Subsections (8) and (9) of section 1001.03,  
 1080 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1081 1001.03 Specific powers of State Board of Education.—

1082 (8) SYSTEMWIDE ENFORCEMENT.—The State Board of Education  
 1083 shall enforce compliance with law and state board rule by all  
 1084 school districts, early learning coalitions, and public  
 1085 postsecondary educational institutions, except for the State  
 1086 University System, in accordance with the provisions of s.  
 1087 1008.32.

1088 (9) MANAGEMENT INFORMATION DATABASES.—The State Board of  
 1089 Education, in conjunction with the Board of Governors regarding  
 1090 the State University System, shall continue to collect and  
 1091 maintain, at a minimum, the management information databases for  
 1092 state universities, and all other components of the public Early  
 1093 Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system as such databases existed on  
 1094 June 30, 2002.

1095 Section 23. Subsection (1), paragraphs (g), (k), and (l)  
 1096 of subsection (6), and subsection (8) of section 1001.10,  
 1097 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1098 1001.10 Commissioner of Education; general powers and  
 1099 duties.—

1100 (1) The Commissioner of Education is the chief educational

1101 officer of the state and the sole custodian of the educational  
 1102 ~~K-20~~ data warehouse, and is responsible for giving full  
 1103 assistance to the State Board of Education in enforcing  
 1104 compliance with the mission and goals of the Early Learning ~~K-20~~  
 1105 education system, except for the State University System.

1106 (6) Additionally, the commissioner has the following  
 1107 general powers and duties:

1108 (g) To submit to the State Board of Education, on or  
 1109 before October 1 of each year, recommendations for a coordinated  
 1110 Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education budget that estimates the  
 1111 expenditures for the Board of Governors, the State Board of  
 1112 Education, including the Department of Education and the  
 1113 Commissioner of Education, and all of the boards, institutions,  
 1114 agencies, and services under the general supervision of the  
 1115 Board of Governors or the State Board of Education for the  
 1116 ensuing fiscal year. Any program recommended to the State Board  
 1117 of Education that will require increases in state funding for  
 1118 more than 1 year must be presented in a multiyear budget plan.

1119 (k) To prepare, publish, and disseminate user-friendly  
 1120 materials relating to the state's education system, including  
 1121 the state's K-12 scholarship programs, the school readiness  
 1122 program, and the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

1123 (l) To prepare and publish annually reports giving  
 1124 statistics and other useful information pertaining to the  
 1125 state's K-12 scholarship programs, the school readiness program,

1126 and the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

1127 (8) In the event of an emergency situation, the  
 1128 commissioner may coordinate through the most appropriate means  
 1129 of communication with early learning coalitions, local school  
 1130 districts, Florida College System institutions, and satellite  
 1131 offices of the Division of Blind Services and the Division of  
 1132 Vocational Rehabilitation to assess the need for resources and  
 1133 assistance to enable each school, institution, or satellite  
 1134 office the ability to reopen as soon as possible after  
 1135 considering the health, safety, and welfare of students and  
 1136 clients.

1137 Section 24. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) and subsection  
 1138 (4) of section 1001.11, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1139 1001.11 Commissioner of Education; other duties.—

1140 (1) The Commissioner of Education must independently  
 1141 perform the following duties:

1142 (b) Serve as the primary source of information to the  
 1143 Legislature, including the President of the Senate and the  
 1144 Speaker of the House of Representatives, concerning the State  
 1145 Board of Education, the Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system,  
 1146 and early learning programs.

1147 (4) The commissioner shall develop and implement an  
 1148 integrated Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ information system for  
 1149 educational management in accordance with the requirements of  
 1150 chapter 1008.

1151 Section 25. Section 1001.213, Florida Statutes, is  
 1152 repealed.

1153 Section 26. Subsection (7) of section 1001.215, Florida  
 1154 Statutes, is amended to read:

1155 1001.215 Just Read, Florida! Office.—There is created in  
 1156 the Department of Education the Just Read, Florida! Office. The  
 1157 office is fully accountable to the Commissioner of Education and  
 1158 shall:

1159 (7) Review, evaluate, and provide technical assistance to  
 1160 school districts' implementation of the ~~K-12~~ comprehensive  
 1161 reading plan required in s. 1011.62(9).

1162 Section 27. Subsection (1) of section 1001.23, Florida  
 1163 Statutes, is amended to read:

1164 1001.23 Specific powers and duties of the Department of  
 1165 Education.—In addition to all other duties assigned to it by law  
 1166 or by rule of the State Board of Education, the department  
 1167 shall:

1168 ~~(1) Adopt the statewide kindergarten screening in~~  
 1169 ~~accordance with s. 1002.69.~~

1170 Section 28. Subsection (3) of section 1001.70, Florida  
 1171 Statutes, is amended to read:

1172 1001.70 Board of Governors of the State University  
 1173 System.—

1174 (3) The Board of Governors, in exercising its authority  
 1175 under the State Constitution and statutes, shall exercise its

1176 authority in a manner that supports, promotes, and enhances an  
 1177 Early Learning-20 ~~a K-20~~ education system that provides  
 1178 affordable access to postsecondary educational opportunities for  
 1179 residents of the state to the extent authorized by the State  
 1180 Constitution and state law.

1181 Section 29. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section  
 1182 1001.706, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1183 1001.706 Powers and duties of the Board of Governors.—

1184 (4) POWERS AND DUTIES RELATING TO FINANCE.—

1185 (b) The Board of Governors shall prepare the legislative  
 1186 budget requests for the State University System, including a  
 1187 request for fixed capital outlay, and submit them to the State  
 1188 Board of Education for inclusion in the Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~  
 1189 legislative budget request. The Board of Governors shall provide  
 1190 the state universities with fiscal policy guidelines, formats,  
 1191 and instruction for the development of individual university  
 1192 budget requests.

1193 Section 30. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section  
 1194 1002.22, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1195 1002.22 Education records and reports of K-12 students;  
 1196 rights of parents and students; notification; penalty.—

1197 (1) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

1198 (b) "Institution" means any public school, center,  
 1199 institution, or other entity that is part of Florida's education  
 1200 system under s. 1000.04(2), (4), and (5) ~~s. 1000.04(1), (3), and~~



1201 ~~(4).~~

1202 Section 31. Subsections (3) and (10) of section 1002.32,  
1203 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1204 1002.32 Developmental research (laboratory) schools.—

1205 (3) MISSION.—The mission of a lab school shall be the  
1206 provision of a vehicle for the conduct of research,  
1207 demonstration, and evaluation regarding management, teaching,  
1208 and learning. Programs to achieve the mission of a lab school  
1209 shall embody the goals and standards established pursuant to ss.  
1210 1000.03(5) and 1001.23(1) ~~1001.23(2)~~ and shall ensure an  
1211 appropriate education for its students.

1212 (a) Each lab school shall emphasize mathematics, science,  
1213 computer science, and foreign languages. The primary goal of a  
1214 lab school is to enhance instruction and research in such  
1215 specialized subjects by using the resources available on a state  
1216 university campus, while also providing an education in  
1217 nonspecialized subjects. Each lab school shall provide  
1218 sequential elementary and secondary instruction where  
1219 appropriate. A lab school may not provide instruction at grade  
1220 levels higher than grade 12 without authorization from the State  
1221 Board of Education. Each lab school shall develop and implement  
1222 a school improvement plan pursuant to s. 1003.02(3).

1223 (b) Research, demonstration, and evaluation conducted at a  
1224 lab school may be generated by the college of education and  
1225 other colleges within the university with which the school is

1226 affiliated.

1227 (c) Research, demonstration, and evaluation conducted at a  
 1228 lab school may be generated by the State Board of Education.  
 1229 Such research shall respond to the needs of the education  
 1230 community at large, rather than the specific needs of the  
 1231 affiliated college.

1232 (d) Research, demonstration, and evaluation conducted at a  
 1233 lab school may consist of pilot projects to be generated by the  
 1234 affiliated college, the State Board of Education, or the  
 1235 Legislature.

1236 (e) The exceptional education programs offered at a lab  
 1237 school shall be determined by the research and evaluation goals  
 1238 and the availability of students for efficiently sized programs.  
 1239 The fact that a lab school offers an exceptional education  
 1240 program in no way lessens the general responsibility of the  
 1241 local school district to provide exceptional education programs.

1242 (10) EXCEPTIONS TO LAW.—To encourage innovative practices  
 1243 and facilitate the mission of the lab schools, in addition to  
 1244 the exceptions to law specified in s. 1001.23(1) ~~s. 1001.23(2)~~,  
 1245 the following exceptions shall be permitted for lab schools:

1246 (a) The methods and requirements of the following statutes  
 1247 shall be held in abeyance: ss. 316.75; 1001.30; 1001.31;  
 1248 1001.32; 1001.33; 1001.34; 1001.35; 1001.36; 1001.361; 1001.362;  
 1249 1001.363; 1001.37; 1001.371; 1001.372; 1001.38; 1001.39;  
 1250 1001.395; 1001.40; 1001.41; 1001.44; 1001.453; 1001.46;

1251 1001.461; 1001.462; 1001.463; 1001.464; 1001.47; 1001.48;  
 1252 1001.49; 1001.50; 1001.51; 1006.12(2); 1006.21(3), (4); 1006.23;  
 1253 1010.07(2); 1010.40; 1010.41; 1010.42; 1010.43; 1010.44;  
 1254 1010.45; 1010.46; 1010.47; 1010.48; 1010.49; 1010.50; 1010.51;  
 1255 1010.52; 1010.53; 1010.54; 1010.55; 1011.02(1)-(3), (5);  
 1256 1011.04; 1011.20; 1011.21; 1011.22; 1011.23; 1011.71; 1011.72;  
 1257 1011.73; and 1011.74.

1258 (b) With the exception of s. 1001.42(18), s. 1001.42 shall  
 1259 be held in abeyance. Reference to district school boards in s.  
 1260 1001.42(18) shall mean the president of the university or the  
 1261 president's designee.

1262 Section 32. Paragraph (b) of subsection (10) of section  
 1263 1002.34, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1264 1002.34 Charter technical career centers.—

1265 (10) EXEMPTION FROM STATUTES.—

1266 (b) A center must comply with the Florida Early Learning-  
 1267 20 ~~K-20~~ Education Code with respect to providing services to  
 1268 students with disabilities.

1269 Section 33. Subsection (1) of section 1002.36, Florida  
 1270 Statutes, is amended to read:

1271 1002.36 Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind.—

1272 (1) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Florida School for the Deaf and  
 1273 the Blind, located in St. Johns County, is a state-supported  
 1274 residential public school for hearing-impaired and visually  
 1275 impaired students in preschool through 12th grade. The school is

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1276 a component of the delivery of public education within Florida's  
1277 Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system and shall be funded  
1278 through the Department of Education. The school shall provide  
1279 educational programs and support services appropriate to meet  
1280 the education and related evaluation and counseling needs of  
1281 hearing-impaired and visually impaired students in the state who  
1282 meet enrollment criteria. Unless otherwise provided by law, the  
1283 school shall comply with all laws and rules applicable to state  
1284 agencies. Education services may be provided on an outreach  
1285 basis for sensory-impaired children ages 0 through 5 years and  
1286 to district school boards upon request. Graduates of the Florida  
1287 School for the Deaf and the Blind shall be eligible for the  
1288 William L. Boyd, IV, Effective Access to Student Education Grant  
1289 Program as provided in s. 1009.89.

1290 Section 34. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) and subsection  
1291 (5) of section 1002.53, Florida Statutes, are amended, and  
1292 paragraph (d) is added to subsection (6), to read:

1293 1002.53 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program;  
1294 eligibility and enrollment.—

1295 (4)

1296 (b) The application must be submitted on forms prescribed  
1297 by the department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ and must be  
1298 accompanied by a certified copy of the child's birth  
1299 certificate. The forms must include a certification, in  
1300 substantially the form provided in s. 1002.71(6)(b)2., that the

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1301 parent chooses the private prekindergarten provider or public  
1302 school in accordance with this section and directs that payments  
1303 for the program be made to the provider or school. The  
1304 department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ may authorize alternative  
1305 methods for submitting proof of the child's age in lieu of a  
1306 certified copy of the child's birth certificate.

1307 (5) The early learning coalition shall provide each parent  
1308 enrolling a child in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
1309 Program with a profile of every private prekindergarten provider  
1310 and public school delivering the program within the county where  
1311 the child is being enrolled. The profiles shall be provided to  
1312 parents in a format prescribed by the department in accordance  
1313 with s. 1002.92(3) ~~Office of Early Learning~~. ~~The profiles must~~  
1314 ~~include, at a minimum, the following information about each~~  
1315 ~~provider and school:~~

1316 ~~(a) The provider's or school's services, curriculum,~~  
1317 ~~instructor credentials, and instructor-to-student ratio; and~~  
1318 ~~(b) The provider's or school's kindergarten readiness rate~~  
1319 ~~calculated in accordance with s. 1002.69, based upon the most~~  
1320 ~~recent available results of the statewide kindergarten~~  
1321 ~~screening.~~

1322 (6)

1323 (d) Each parent who enrolls his or her child in the  
1324 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program must allow his or  
1325 her child to participate in the coordinated screening and

1326 progress monitoring program under s. 1008.2125.

1327 Section 35. Paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (e), (g), (h), (i),  
 1328 (j), and (l) of subsection (3), subsection (4), and paragraph  
 1329 (b) of subsection (5) of section 1002.55, Florida Statutes, are  
 1330 amended, and subsection (6) is added to that section, to read:

1331 1002.55 School-year prekindergarten program delivered by  
 1332 private prekindergarten providers.—

1333 (3) To be eligible to deliver the prekindergarten program,  
 1334 a private prekindergarten provider must meet each of the  
 1335 following requirements:

1336 (a) The private prekindergarten provider must be a child  
 1337 care facility licensed under s. 402.305, family day care home  
 1338 licensed under s. 402.313, large family child care home licensed  
 1339 under s. 402.3131, nonpublic school exempt from licensure under  
 1340 s. 402.3025(2), ~~or~~ faith-based child care provider exempt from  
 1341 licensure under s. 402.316, child development program that is  
 1342 accredited by a national accrediting body and operates on a  
 1343 military installation that is certified by the United States  
 1344 Department of Defense, or private prekindergarten provider that  
 1345 has been issued a provisional license under s. 402.309. A  
 1346 private prekindergarten provider may not deliver the program  
 1347 while holding a probation-status license under s. 402.310.

1348 (b) The private prekindergarten provider must:

1349 1. Be accredited by an accrediting association that is a  
 1350 member of the National Council for Private School Accreditation,

1351 or the Florida Association of Academic Nonpublic Schools, or be  
1352 accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools,  
1353 or Western Association of Colleges and Schools, or North Central  
1354 Association of Colleges and Schools, or Middle States  
1355 Association of Colleges and Schools, or New England Association  
1356 of Colleges and Schools; and have written accreditation  
1357 standards that meet or exceed the state's licensing requirements  
1358 under s. 402.305, s. 402.313, or s. 402.3131 and require at  
1359 least one onsite visit to the provider or school before  
1360 accreditation is granted;

1361 2. Hold a current Gold Seal Quality Care designation under  
1362 s. 1002.945 ~~s. 402.281~~; or

1363 3. Be licensed under s. 402.305, s. 402.313, or s.  
1364 402.3131 and demonstrate, before delivering the Voluntary  
1365 Prekindergarten Education Program, as verified by the early  
1366 learning coalition, that the provider meets each of the  
1367 requirements of the program under this part, including, but not  
1368 limited to, the requirements for credentials and background  
1369 screenings of prekindergarten instructors under paragraphs (c)  
1370 and (d), minimum and maximum class sizes under paragraph (f),  
1371 prekindergarten director credentials under paragraph (g), and a  
1372 developmentally appropriate curriculum under s. 1002.67(2)(b).

1373 (c) The private prekindergarten provider must have, for  
1374 each prekindergarten class of 11 children or fewer, at least one  
1375 prekindergarten instructor who meets each of the following

1376 requirements:

1377 1. The prekindergarten instructor must hold, at a minimum,  
1378 one of the following credentials:

1379 a. A child development associate credential issued by the  
1380 National Credentialing Program of the Council for Professional  
1381 Recognition; or

1382 b. A credential approved by the Department of Children and  
1383 Families as being equivalent to or greater than the credential  
1384 described in sub-subparagraph a.

1385

1386 The Department of Children and Families may adopt rules under  
1387 ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 which provide criteria and procedures  
1388 for approving equivalent credentials under sub-subparagraph b.

1389 2. The prekindergarten instructor must successfully  
1390 complete at least three ~~an~~ emergent literacy training courses  
1391 that include developmentally appropriate and experiential  
1392 learning practices for children ~~course~~ and a student performance  
1393 standards training course approved by the department ~~office~~ as  
1394 meeting or exceeding the minimum standards adopted under s.  
1395 1002.59. The requirement for completion of the standards  
1396 training course shall take effect July 1, 2022 ~~2014~~, and be  
1397 recognized as part of the informal early learning career pathway  
1398 identified by the department under s. 1002.995(1)(b). ~~Such~~ ~~and~~  
1399 ~~the~~ course shall be available online or in person.

1400 (e) A private prekindergarten provider may assign a



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1401 substitute instructor to temporarily replace a credentialed  
1402 instructor if the credentialed instructor assigned to a  
1403 prekindergarten class is absent, as long as the substitute  
1404 instructor is of good moral character and has been screened  
1405 before employment in accordance with level 2 background  
1406 screening requirements in chapter 435. The department ~~Office of~~  
1407 ~~Early Learning~~ shall adopt rules to implement this paragraph  
1408 which shall include required qualifications of substitute  
1409 instructors and the circumstances and time limits for which a  
1410 private prekindergarten provider may assign a substitute  
1411 instructor.

1412 (g) The private prekindergarten provider must have a  
1413 prekindergarten director who has a prekindergarten director  
1414 credential that is approved by the department ~~office~~ as meeting  
1415 or exceeding the minimum standards adopted under s. 1002.57. A  
1416 private school administrator who holds a valid certificate in  
1417 educational leadership issued by the department satisfies the  
1418 requirement for a prekindergarten director credential under s.  
1419 1002.57. ~~Successful completion of a child care facility director~~  
1420 ~~credential under s. 402.305(2) (g) before the establishment of~~  
1421 ~~the prekindergarten director credential under s. 1002.57 or July~~  
1422 ~~1, 2006, whichever occurs later, satisfies the requirement for a~~  
1423 ~~prekindergarten director credential under this paragraph.~~

1424 (h) The private prekindergarten provider must register  
1425 with the early learning coalition on forms prescribed by the

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1426 department ~~Office of Early Learning~~.

1427 (i) The private prekindergarten provider must execute the  
1428 statewide provider contract prescribed under s. 1002.73 ~~s.~~  
1429 ~~1002.75~~, except that an individual who owns or operates multiple  
1430 private prekindergarten sites ~~providers~~ within a coalition's  
1431 service area may execute a single agreement with the coalition  
1432 on behalf of each site ~~provider~~.

1433 (j) The private prekindergarten provider must maintain  
1434 general liability insurance and provide the coalition with  
1435 written evidence of general liability insurance coverage,  
1436 including coverage for transportation of children if  
1437 prekindergarten students are transported by the provider. A  
1438 provider must obtain and retain an insurance policy that  
1439 provides a minimum of \$100,000 of coverage per occurrence and a  
1440 minimum of \$300,000 general aggregate coverage. The department  
1441 ~~office~~ may authorize lower limits upon request, as appropriate.  
1442 A provider must add the coalition as a named certificateholder  
1443 and as an additional insured. A provider must provide the  
1444 coalition with a minimum of 10 calendar days' advance written  
1445 notice of cancellation of or changes to coverage. The general  
1446 liability insurance required by this paragraph must remain in  
1447 full force and effect for the entire period of the provider  
1448 contract with the coalition.

1449 (l) Notwithstanding paragraph (j), for a private  
1450 prekindergarten provider that is a state agency or a subdivision

1451 | thereof, as defined in s. 768.28(2), the provider must agree to  
 1452 | notify the coalition of any additional liability coverage  
 1453 | maintained by the provider in addition to that otherwise  
 1454 | established under s. 768.28. The provider shall indemnify the  
 1455 | coalition to the extent permitted by s. 768.28. Notwithstanding  
 1456 | paragraph (j), for a child development program that is  
 1457 | accredited by a national accrediting body and operates on a  
 1458 | military installation that is certified by the United States  
 1459 | Department of Defense, the provider may demonstrate liability  
 1460 | coverage by affirming that it is subject to the Federal Tort  
 1461 | Claims Act, 28 U.S.C. s. 2671 et seq.

1462 |         (4) A prekindergarten instructor, in lieu of the minimum  
 1463 | credentials ~~and courses~~ required under paragraph (3)(c), may  
 1464 | hold one of the following educational credentials:

1465 |             (a) A bachelor's or higher degree in early childhood  
 1466 | education, prekindergarten or primary education, preschool  
 1467 | education, or family and consumer science;

1468 |             (b) A bachelor's or higher degree in elementary education,  
 1469 | if the prekindergarten instructor has been certified to teach  
 1470 | children any age from birth through 6th grade, regardless of  
 1471 | whether the instructor's educator certificate is current, and if  
 1472 | the instructor is not ineligible to teach in a public school  
 1473 | because his or her educator certificate is suspended or revoked;

1474 |             (c) An associate's or higher degree in child development;

1475 |             (d) An associate's or higher degree in an unrelated field,

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1476 at least 6 credit hours in early childhood education or child  
1477 development, and at least 480 hours of experience in teaching or  
1478 providing child care services for children any age from birth  
1479 through 8 years of age; or

1480 (e) An educational credential approved by the department  
1481 as being equivalent to or greater than an educational credential  
1482 described in this subsection. The department may adopt criteria  
1483 and procedures for approving equivalent educational credentials  
1484 under this paragraph.

1485 (5)

1486 (b) Notwithstanding any other ~~provision of law~~, if a  
1487 private prekindergarten provider has been cited for a class I  
1488 violation, as defined by rule of the Child Care Services Program  
1489 Office of the Department of Children and Families, the coalition  
1490 may refuse to contract with the provider.

1491 (6) Each early learning coalition must verify that each  
1492 private prekindergarten provider delivering the Voluntary  
1493 Prekindergarten Education Program within the coalition's county  
1494 or multicounty region complies with this part. If a private  
1495 prekindergarten provider fails or refuses to comply with this  
1496 part or engages in misconduct, the department shall require the  
1497 early learning coalition to remove the provider from eligibility  
1498 to deliver the program and receive state funds under this part  
1499 for a period of at least 2 years but no more than 5 years.

1500 Section 36. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (2) of

1501 section 1002.57, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as  
 1502 paragraphs (c) and (d), respectively, subsection (1) is amended,  
 1503 and a new paragraph (b) is added to subsection (2) of that  
 1504 section, to read:

1505 1002.57 Prekindergarten director credential.—

1506 (1) The department ~~office~~, in consultation with the  
 1507 Department of Children and Families, shall adopt minimum  
 1508 standards for a credential for prekindergarten directors of  
 1509 private prekindergarten providers delivering the Voluntary  
 1510 Prekindergarten Education Program. The credential must encompass  
 1511 requirements for education and onsite experience.

1512 (2) The educational requirements must include training in  
 1513 the following:

1514 (b) Implementation of curriculum and usage of student-  
 1515 level data to inform the delivery of instruction;

1516 Section 37. Section 1002.59, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 1517 to read:

1518 1002.59 Emergent literacy and performance standards  
 1519 training courses.—

1520 (1) The department ~~office~~ shall adopt minimum standards  
 1521 for ~~one or more training~~ courses in emergent literacy for  
 1522 prekindergarten instructors. Each course must comprise 5 clock  
 1523 hours and provide instruction in strategies and techniques to  
 1524 address the age-appropriate progress of prekindergarten students  
 1525 in developing emergent literacy skills, including oral

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1526 communication, knowledge of print and letters, phonemic and  
1527 phonological awareness, and vocabulary and comprehension  
1528 development. Each course must also provide resources containing  
1529 strategies that allow students with disabilities and other  
1530 special needs to derive maximum benefit from the Voluntary  
1531 Prekindergarten Education Program. Successful completion of an  
1532 emergent literacy training course approved under this section  
1533 satisfies requirements for approved training in early literacy  
1534 and language development under ss. 402.305(2)(e)5., 402.313(6),  
1535 and 402.3131(5).

1536 (2) The department ~~office~~ shall adopt minimum standards  
1537 for ~~one or more training~~ courses on the performance standards  
1538 adopted under s. 1002.67(1). Each course must be comprised of  
1539 ~~comprise~~ at least 3 clock hours, provide instruction in  
1540 strategies and techniques to address age-appropriate progress of  
1541 each child in attaining the standards, and be available online.

1542 (3) The department shall make available online  
1543 professional development and training courses comprised of at  
1544 least 8 clock hours that support prekindergarten instructors in  
1545 increasing the competency of teacher-child interactions.

1546 Section 38. Subsections (6) through (8) of section  
1547 1002.61, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (7)  
1548 through (9), respectively, paragraph (b) of subsection (1),  
1549 paragraph (b) of subsection (3), subsection (4), and present  
1550 subsections (6) and (8) are amended, and new subsections (6) and

1551 (10) are added to that section, to read:

1552 1002.61 Summer prekindergarten program delivered by public  
1553 schools and private prekindergarten providers.—

1554 (1)

1555 (b) Each early learning coalition shall administer the  
1556 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program at the county or  
1557 regional level for students enrolled under s. 1002.53(3)(b) in a  
1558 summer prekindergarten program delivered by a private  
1559 prekindergarten provider. A child development program that is  
1560 accredited by a national accrediting body and operates on a  
1561 military installation that is certified by the United States  
1562 Department of Defense may administer the summer prekindergarten  
1563 program as a private prekindergarten provider.

1564 (3)

1565 (b) Each public school delivering the summer  
1566 prekindergarten program must execute the statewide provider  
1567 contract prescribed under s. 1002.73 ~~s. 1002.75~~, except that the  
1568 school district may execute a single agreement with the early  
1569 learning coalition on behalf of all district schools.

1570 (4) Notwithstanding ss. 1002.55(3)(c)1. and 1002.63(4),  
1571 each public school and private prekindergarten provider must  
1572 have, for each prekindergarten class, at least one  
1573 prekindergarten instructor who is a certified teacher or holds  
1574 one of the educational credentials specified in s. 1002.55(4)(a)  
1575 or (b). As used in this subsection, the term "certified teacher"

1576 means a teacher holding a valid Florida educator certificate  
1577 under s. 1012.56 who has the qualifications required by the  
1578 district school board to instruct students in the summer  
1579 prekindergarten program. In selecting instructional staff for  
1580 the summer prekindergarten program, each school district shall  
1581 give priority to teachers who have experience or coursework in  
1582 early childhood education and have completed emergent literacy  
1583 and performance standards courses, as provided for in s.  
1584 1002.55 (3) (c) 2.

1585 (6) A child development program that is accredited by a  
1586 national accrediting body and operates on a military  
1587 installation that is certified by the United States Department  
1588 of Defense shall comply with the requirements of a private  
1589 prekindergarten provider in this section.

1590 (7)~~(6)~~ A public school or private prekindergarten provider  
1591 may assign a substitute instructor to temporarily replace a  
1592 credentialed instructor if the credentialed instructor assigned  
1593 to a prekindergarten class is absent, as long as the substitute  
1594 instructor is of good moral character and has been screened  
1595 before employment in accordance with level 2 background  
1596 screening requirements in chapter 435. This subsection does not  
1597 supersede employment requirements for instructional personnel in  
1598 public schools which are more stringent than the requirements of  
1599 this subsection. The department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall  
1600 adopt rules to implement this subsection which shall include



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1601 required qualifications of substitute instructors and the  
1602 circumstances and time limits for which a public school or  
1603 private prekindergarten provider may assign a substitute  
1604 instructor.

1605 (9)~~(8)~~ Each public school delivering the summer  
1606 prekindergarten program must also register with the early  
1607 learning coalition on forms prescribed by the department ~~Office~~  
1608 ~~of Early Learning~~ and deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
1609 Education Program in accordance with this part.

1610 (10) (a) Each early learning coalition shall verify that  
1611 each private prekindergarten provider and public school  
1612 delivering the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program  
1613 within the coalition's county or multicounty region complies  
1614 with this part.

1615 (b) If a private prekindergarten provider or public school  
1616 fails or refuses to comply with this part or engages in  
1617 misconduct, the department shall require the early learning  
1618 coalition to remove the provider or school from eligibility to  
1619 deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and  
1620 receive state funds under this part for a period of at least 2  
1621 years but no more than 5 years.

1622 Section 39. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) and  
1623 subsections (6) and (8) of section 1002.63, Florida Statutes,  
1624 are amended, and subsection (9) is added to that section, to  
1625 read:

1626           1002.63 School-year prekindergarten program delivered by  
1627 public schools.—

1628           (3)

1629           (b) Each public school delivering the school-year  
1630 prekindergarten program must execute the statewide provider  
1631 contract prescribed under s. 1002.73 ~~s. 1002.75~~, except that the  
1632 school district may execute a single agreement with the early  
1633 learning coalition on behalf of all district schools.

1634           (6) A public school prekindergarten provider may assign a  
1635 substitute instructor to temporarily replace a credentialed  
1636 instructor if the credentialed instructor assigned to a  
1637 prekindergarten class is absent, as long as the substitute  
1638 instructor is of good moral character and has been screened  
1639 before employment in accordance with level 2 background  
1640 screening requirements in chapter 435. This subsection does not  
1641 supersede employment requirements for instructional personnel in  
1642 public schools which are more stringent than the requirements of  
1643 this subsection. The department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall  
1644 adopt rules to implement this subsection which shall include  
1645 required qualifications of substitute instructors and the  
1646 circumstances and time limits for which a public school  
1647 prekindergarten provider may assign a substitute instructor.

1648           (8) Each public school delivering the school-year  
1649 prekindergarten program must register with the early learning  
1650 coalition on forms prescribed by the department ~~Office of Early~~

1651 ~~Learning~~ and deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
 1652 Program in accordance with this part.

1653 (9) (a) Each early learning coalition shall verify that  
 1654 each public school delivering the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
 1655 Education Program within the coalition's service area complies  
 1656 with this part.

1657 (b) If a public school fails or refuses to comply with  
 1658 this part or engages in misconduct, the department shall require  
 1659 the early learning coalition to remove the school from  
 1660 eligibility to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
 1661 Program and receive state funds under this part for a period of  
 1662 at least 2 years but no more than 5 years.

1663 Section 40. Section 1002.67, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 1664 to read:

1665 1002.67 Performance standards ~~and~~ curricula ~~and~~  
 1666 ~~accountability.~~—

1667 (1) (a) The ~~department~~ office shall develop and adopt  
 1668 performance standards for students in the Voluntary  
 1669 Prekindergarten Education Program. The performance standards  
 1670 must address the age-appropriate progress of students in the  
 1671 development of:

1672 1. The capabilities, capacities, and skills required under  
 1673 s. 1(b), Art. IX of the State Constitution; ~~and~~

1674 2. Emergent literacy skills, including oral communication,  
 1675 knowledge of print and letters, phonemic and phonological

1676 awareness, and vocabulary and comprehension development; and

1677 3. Mathematical thinking and early math skills.

1678  
1679 ~~By October 1, 2013, the office shall examine the existing~~  
1680 ~~performance standards in the area of mathematical thinking and~~  
1681 ~~develop a plan to make appropriate professional development and~~  
1682 ~~training courses available to prekindergarten instructors.~~

1683 (b) At least every 3 years, the department office shall  
1684 ~~periodically~~ review and, if necessary, revise the performance  
1685 standards established under s. 1002.67 ~~for the statewide~~  
1686 ~~kindergarten screening administered under s. 1002.69~~ and align  
1687 the standards to the standards established by the state board  
1688 for student performance on the statewide assessments  
1689 administered pursuant to s. 1008.22.

1690 (2) (a) Each private prekindergarten provider and public  
1691 school may select or design the curriculum that the provider or  
1692 school uses to implement the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
1693 Program, except as otherwise required for a provider or school  
1694 that is placed on probation under s. 1002.68 ~~paragraph (4) (c).~~

1695 (b) Each private prekindergarten provider's and public  
1696 school's curriculum must be developmentally appropriate and  
1697 must:

1698 1. Be designed to prepare a student for early literacy and  
1699 provide for instruction in early math skills;

1700 2. Enhance the age-appropriate progress of students in

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1701 attaining the performance standards adopted by the department  
1702 under subsection (1); and

1703 3. Support student learning gains through differentiated  
1704 instruction that shall be measured by the coordinated screening  
1705 and progress monitoring program under s. 1008.2125 ~~Prepare~~  
1706 ~~students to be ready for kindergarten based upon the statewide~~  
1707 ~~kindergarten screening administered under s. 1002.69.~~

1708 (c) The department office shall adopt procedures for the  
1709 review and approval of ~~approve~~ curricula for use by private  
1710 prekindergarten providers and public schools that are placed on  
1711 probation under s. 1002.68 ~~paragraph (4)(c)~~. The department  
1712 office shall administer the review and approval process and  
1713 maintain a list of the curricula approved under this paragraph.  
1714 Each approved curriculum must meet the requirements of paragraph  
1715 (b).

1716 ~~(3)(a) Contingent upon legislative appropriation, each~~  
1717 ~~private prekindergarten provider and public school in the~~  
1718 ~~Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program must implement an~~  
1719 ~~evidence-based pre- and post-assessment that has been approved~~  
1720 ~~by rule of the State Board of Education.~~

1721 ~~(b) In order to be approved, the assessment must be valid,~~  
1722 ~~reliable, developmentally appropriate, and designed to measure~~  
1723 ~~student progress on domains which must include, but are not~~  
1724 ~~limited to, early literacy, numeracy, and language.~~

1725 ~~(c) The pre- and post-assessment must be administered by~~

1726 ~~individuals meeting requirements established by rule of the~~  
1727 ~~State Board of Education.~~

1728 ~~(4) (a) Each early learning coalition shall verify that~~  
1729 ~~each private prekindergarten provider delivering the Voluntary~~  
1730 ~~Prekindergarten Education Program within the coalition's county~~  
1731 ~~or multicounty region complies with this part. Each district~~  
1732 ~~school board shall verify that each public school delivering the~~  
1733 ~~program within the school district complies with this part.~~

1734 ~~(b) If a private prekindergarten provider or public school~~  
1735 ~~fails or refuses to comply with this part, or if a provider or~~  
1736 ~~school engages in misconduct, the office shall require the early~~  
1737 ~~learning coalition to remove the provider and require the school~~  
1738 ~~district to remove the school from eligibility to deliver the~~  
1739 ~~Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and receive state~~  
1740 ~~funds under this part for a period of 5 years.~~

1741 ~~(c)1. If the kindergarten readiness rate of a private~~  
1742 ~~prekindergarten provider or public school falls below the~~  
1743 ~~minimum rate adopted by the office as satisfactory under s.~~  
1744 ~~1002.69(6), the early learning coalition or school district, as~~  
1745 ~~applicable, shall require the provider or school to submit an~~  
1746 ~~improvement plan for approval by the coalition or school~~  
1747 ~~district, as applicable, and to implement the plan; shall place~~  
1748 ~~the provider or school on probation; and shall require the~~  
1749 ~~provider or school to take certain corrective actions, including~~  
1750 ~~the use of a curriculum approved by the office under paragraph~~

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1751 ~~(2) (c) or a staff development plan to strengthen instruction in~~  
1752 ~~language development and phonological awareness approved by the~~  
1753 ~~office.~~

1754 ~~2. A private prekindergarten provider or public school~~  
1755 ~~that is placed on probation must continue the corrective actions~~  
1756 ~~required under subparagraph 1., including the use of a~~  
1757 ~~curriculum or a staff development plan to strengthen instruction~~  
1758 ~~in language development and phonological awareness approved by~~  
1759 ~~the office, until the provider or school meets the minimum rate~~  
1760 ~~adopted by the office as satisfactory under s. 1002.69(6).~~  
1761 ~~Failure to implement an approved improvement plan or staff~~  
1762 ~~development plan shall result in the termination of the~~  
1763 ~~provider's contract to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten~~  
1764 ~~Education Program for a period of 5 years.~~

1765 ~~3. If a private prekindergarten provider or public school~~  
1766 ~~remains on probation for 2 consecutive years and fails to meet~~  
1767 ~~the minimum rate adopted by the office as satisfactory under s.~~  
1768 ~~1002.69(6) and is not granted a good cause exemption by the~~  
1769 ~~office pursuant to s. 1002.69(7), the office shall require the~~  
1770 ~~early learning coalition or the school district to remove, as~~  
1771 ~~applicable, the provider or school from eligibility to deliver~~  
1772 ~~the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and receive~~  
1773 ~~state funds for the program for a period of 5 years.~~

1774 ~~(d) Each early learning coalition and the office shall~~  
1775 ~~coordinate with the Child Care Services Program Office of the~~

1776 ~~Department of Children and Families to minimize interagency~~  
1777 ~~duplication of activities for monitoring private prekindergarten~~  
1778 ~~providers for compliance with requirements of the Voluntary~~  
1779 ~~Prekindergarten Education Program under this part, the school~~  
1780 ~~readiness program under part VI of this chapter, and the~~  
1781 ~~licensing of providers under ss. 402.301-402.319.~~

1782 Section 41. Section 1002.68, Florida Statutes, is created  
1783 to read:

1784 1002.68 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program  
1785 accountability.—

1786 (1) (a) Beginning with the 2022-2023 program year, each  
1787 private prekindergarten provider and public school participating  
1788 in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program must  
1789 participate in the coordinated screening and progress monitoring  
1790 program in accordance with s. 1008.2125. The coordinated  
1791 screening and progress monitoring program results shall be used  
1792 by the department to identify student learning gains, index  
1793 development learning outcomes upon program completion relative  
1794 to the performance standards established under s. 1002.67 and  
1795 representative norms, and inform a private prekindergarten  
1796 provider's and public school's performance metric.

1797 (b) At a minimum, the initial and final progress  
1798 monitoring or screening must be administered by individuals  
1799 meeting requirements adopted by the department under s.  
1800 1008.2125.



1801 (c) Each private prekindergarten provider and public  
1802 school must provide a student's performance results from the  
1803 coordinated screening and progress monitoring to the student's  
1804 parents within 7 days after the administration of such  
1805 coordinated screening and progress monitoring.

1806 (2) Beginning with the 2021-2022 program year, each  
1807 private prekindergarten provider and public school in the  
1808 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program must participate in  
1809 a program assessment of each voluntary prekindergarten education  
1810 classroom. The program assessment shall measure the quality of  
1811 teacher-child interactions, including emotional support,  
1812 classroom organization, and instructional support for children  
1813 ages 3 to 5 years. Each private prekindergarten provider and  
1814 public school in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program  
1815 shall receive from the department the results of the program  
1816 assessment for each classroom within 14 days after the  
1817 observation. Each early learning coalition shall be responsible  
1818 for the administration of the program assessments which must be  
1819 conducted by individuals qualified to conduct program  
1820 assessments under s. 1002.82(2)(n).

1821 (3) (a) For the 2020-2021 program year, the department  
1822 shall calculate a kindergarten readiness rate for each private  
1823 prekindergarten provider and public school in the Voluntary  
1824 Prekindergarten Education Program based upon learning gains and  
1825 the percentage of students who are assessed as ready for

1826 kindergarten. The department shall require that each school  
1827 district administer the statewide kindergarten screening in use  
1828 before the 2021-2022 school year to each kindergarten student in  
1829 the school district within the first 30 school days of the 2021-  
1830 2022 school year. Private schools may administer the statewide  
1831 kindergarten screening to each kindergarten student in a private  
1832 school who was enrolled in the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
1833 Education Program. Learning gains shall be determined using a  
1834 value-added measure based on growth demonstrated by the results  
1835 of the preassessment and postassessment in use before the 2021-  
1836 2022 program year. Any private prekindergarten provider or  
1837 public school in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program  
1838 which fails to meet the minimum kindergarten readiness rate for  
1839 the 2020-2021 program year is subject to the probation  
1840 requirements of subsection (5).

1841 (b) For the 2021-2022 program year, the department shall  
1842 calculate a program assessment composite score for each provider  
1843 based on the program assessment under subsection (2). Any  
1844 private prekindergarten provider or public school in the  
1845 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program which fails to meet  
1846 the minimum program assessment composite score established by  
1847 the state board pursuant to s. 1002.82(2)(n) for the 2021-2022  
1848 program year is subject to the probation requirements of  
1849 subsection (5).

1850 (4) (a) Beginning with the 2022-2023 program year, the

1851 department shall adopt a methodology for calculating each  
1852 private prekindergarten provider's and public school provider's  
1853 performance metric, which must be based on a combination of the  
1854 following:

1855 1. Program assessment composite scores under subsection  
1856 (3), which must be weighted at no less than 50 percent.

1857 2. Learning gains operationalized as change in ability  
1858 scores from the initial and final progress monitoring results  
1859 described in subsection (1).

1860 3. Norm-referenced developmental learning outcomes  
1861 described in subsection (1).

1862 (b) The methodology for calculating a provider's  
1863 performance metric may only include prekindergarten students who  
1864 have attended at least 85 percent of a private prekindergarten  
1865 provider's or public school's program.

1866 (c) The program assessment composite score and performance  
1867 metric must be calculated for each private prekindergarten or  
1868 public school site.

1869 (d) The methodology shall include a statistical latent  
1870 profile analysis that has been conducted by an independent  
1871 expert with experience in relevant quantitative analysis, early  
1872 childhood assessment, and designing state-level accountability  
1873 systems. The independent expert shall be able to produce a  
1874 limited number of performance metric profiles that summarize the  
1875 profiles of all sites that must be used to inform the following

1876 designations: "unsatisfactory," "emerging proficiency,"  
1877 "proficient," "highly proficient," and "excellent" or comparable  
1878 terminology determined by the State Board of Education which may  
1879 not include letter grades. The independent expert may not be a  
1880 direct stakeholder or have had a financial interest in the  
1881 design or delivery of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
1882 Program or public school system within the last 5 years.

1883 (e) Subject to an appropriation, the department shall  
1884 provide for a differential payment to a private prekindergarten  
1885 provider and public school based on the provider's designation.  
1886 The maximum differential payment may not exceed a total of 15  
1887 percent of the base student allocation per full-time equivalent  
1888 student under s. 1002.71 attending in the consecutive program  
1889 year for that program. A private prekindergarten provider or  
1890 public school may not receive a differential payment if it  
1891 receives a designation of proficient or lower. Before the  
1892 adoption of the methodology, the department and the independent  
1893 expert shall confer with the Council for Early Grade Success  
1894 under s. 1008.2125 before receiving approval from the State  
1895 Board of Education for the final recommendations on the  
1896 designation system and differential payments.

1897 (f) The department shall adopt procedures to annually  
1898 calculate each private prekindergarten provider's and public  
1899 school's performance metric, based on the methodology adopted in  
1900 paragraphs (a) and (b), and assign a designation under paragraph

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1901 (d). Beginning with the 2023-2024 program year, each private  
1902 prekindergarten provider or public school shall be assigned a  
1903 designation within 45 days after the conclusion of the school-  
1904 year Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program delivered by  
1905 all participating private prekindergarten providers or public  
1906 schools and within 45 days after the conclusion of the summer  
1907 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program delivered by all  
1908 participating private prekindergarten providers or public  
1909 schools.

1910 (g) A private prekindergarten provider or public school  
1911 that is designated proficient, highly proficient, or excellent  
1912 demonstrates the provider's or school's satisfactory delivery of  
1913 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

1914 (h) The designations shall be displayed in the early  
1915 learning provider performance profiles required under s.  
1916 1002.92 (3).

1917 (5) (a) If a public school's or private prekindergarten  
1918 provider's program assessment composite score for its  
1919 prekindergarten classrooms fails to meet the minimum program  
1920 assessment composite score for contracting established by the  
1921 department pursuant to s. 1002.82 (2) (n), the private  
1922 prekindergarten provider or public school may not participate in  
1923 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program beginning in the  
1924 consecutive program year and thereafter until the public school  
1925 or private prekindergarten provider meets the minimum composite

1926 score for contracting.

1927 (b) If a private prekindergarten provider's or public  
1928 school's performance metric or designation falls below the  
1929 minimum performance metric or designation, the early learning  
1930 coalition shall:

1931 1. Require the provider or school to submit for approval  
1932 to the early learning coalition an improvement plan and  
1933 implement the plan.

1934 2. Place the provider or school on probation.

1935 3. Require the provider or school to take certain  
1936 corrective actions, including the use of a curriculum approved  
1937 by the department under s. 1002.67(2)(c) and a staff development  
1938 plan approved by the department to strengthen instructional  
1939 practices in emotional support, classroom organization,  
1940 instructional support, language development, phonological  
1941 awareness, alphabet knowledge, and mathematical thinking.

1942 (c) A private prekindergarten provider or public school  
1943 that is placed on probation must continue the corrective actions  
1944 required under paragraph (b) until the provider or school meets  
1945 the minimum performance metric or designation adopted by the  
1946 department. Failure to meet the requirements of subparagraphs  
1947 (b)1. and 3. shall result in the termination of the provider's  
1948 or school's contract to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
1949 Education Program for a period of at least 2 years but no more  
1950 than 5 years.

1951 (d) If a private prekindergarten provider or public school  
1952 remains on probation for 2 consecutive years and fails to meet  
1953 the minimum performance metric or designation, or is not granted  
1954 a good cause exemption by the department, the department shall  
1955 require the early learning coalition to revoke the provider's or  
1956 school's eligibility to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
1957 Education Program and receive state funds for the program for a  
1958 period of at least 2 years but no more than 5 years.

1959 (6) (a) The department, upon the request of a private  
1960 prekindergarten provider or public school that remains on  
1961 probation for at least 2 consecutive years and subsequently  
1962 fails to meet the minimum performance metric or designation, and  
1963 for good cause shown, may grant to the provider or school an  
1964 exemption from being determined ineligible to deliver the  
1965 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and receive state  
1966 funds for the program. Such exemption is valid for 1 year and,  
1967 upon the request of the private prekindergarten provider or  
1968 public school and for good cause shown, may be renewed.

1969 (b) A private prekindergarten provider's or public  
1970 school's request for a good cause exemption, or renewal of such  
1971 an exemption, must be submitted to the department in the manner  
1972 and within the timeframes prescribed by the department and must  
1973 include the following:

1974 1. Data from the private prekindergarten provider or  
1975 public school which documents the achievement and progress of

1976 | the children served, as measured by any required screenings or  
1977 | assessments.

1978 | 2. Data from the program assessment required under  
1979 | subsection (2) which demonstrates effective teaching practices  
1980 | as recognized by the tool developer.

1981 | 3. Data from the early learning coalition or district  
1982 | school board, as applicable, the Department of Children and  
1983 | Families, the local licensing authority, or an accrediting  
1984 | association, as applicable, relating to the private  
1985 | prekindergarten provider's or public school's compliance with  
1986 | state and local health and safety standards.

1987 | (c) The department shall adopt criteria for granting good  
1988 | cause exemptions. Such criteria must include, but are not  
1989 | limited to, all of the following:

1990 | 1. Child demographic data that evidences a private  
1991 | prekindergarten provider or public school serves a statistically  
1992 | significant population of children with special needs who have  
1993 | individual education plans and can demonstrate progress toward  
1994 | meeting the goals outlined in the students' individual education  
1995 | plans.

1996 | 2. Learning gains of children served in the Voluntary  
1997 | Prekindergarten Education Program by the private prekindergarten  
1998 | provider or public school on an alternative measure that has  
1999 | comparable validity and reliability of the coordinated screening  
2000 | and progress monitoring program in accordance with s. 1008.2125.



2001           3. Program assessment data under subsection (2) which  
 2002 demonstrates effective teaching practices as recognized by the  
 2003 tool developer.

2004           4. Verification that local and state health and safety  
 2005 requirements are met.

2006           (d) A good cause exemption may not be granted to any  
 2007 private prekindergarten provider or public school that has any  
 2008 class I violations or two or more class II violations, as  
 2009 defined by rule of the Department of Children and Families,  
 2010 within the 2 years preceding the provider's or school's request  
 2011 for the exemption.

2012           (e) A private prekindergarten provider or public school  
 2013 granted a good cause exemption shall continue to implement its  
 2014 improvement plan and continue the corrective actions required  
 2015 under subsection (5) (b) until the provider or school meets the  
 2016 minimum performance metric.

2017           (f) If a good cause exemption is granted to a private  
 2018 prekindergarten provider or public school that remains on  
 2019 probation for 2 consecutive years and if the provider meets all  
 2020 other applicable requirements of this part, the department shall  
 2021 notify the early learning coalition of the good cause exemption  
 2022 and direct that the early learning coalition not remove the  
 2023 provider from eligibility to deliver the Voluntary  
 2024 Prekindergarten Education Program or to receive state funds for  
 2025 the program.

2026           (g) The department shall report the number of private  
 2027 prekindergarten providers or public schools that have received a  
 2028 good cause exemption and the reasons for the exemptions as part  
 2029 of its annual reporting requirements under s. 1002.82(7).

2030           (7) Representatives from each school district and  
 2031 corresponding early learning coalitions must meet annually to  
 2032 develop strategies to transition students from the Voluntary  
 2033 Prekindergarten Education Program to kindergarten.

2034           Section 42. Section 1002.69, Florida Statutes, is  
 2035 repealed.

2036           Section 43. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3), subsection  
 2037 (4), paragraph (b) of subsection (5), paragraphs (b) and (d) of  
 2038 subsection (6), and subsection (7) of section 1002.71, Florida  
 2039 Statutes, are amended to read:

2040           1002.71 Funding; financial and attendance reporting.—

2041           (3)

2042           (c) The initial allocation shall be based on estimated  
 2043 student enrollment in each coalition service area. The  
 2044 department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall reallocate funds among  
 2045 the coalitions based on actual full-time equivalent student  
 2046 enrollment in each coalition service area. Each coalition shall  
 2047 report student enrollment pursuant to subsection (2) on a  
 2048 monthly basis. A student enrollment count for the prior fiscal  
 2049 year may not be amended after September 30 of the subsequent  
 2050 fiscal year.

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2051 (4) Notwithstanding s. 1002.53(3) and subsection (2):

2052 (a) A child who, for any of the prekindergarten programs  
2053 listed in s. 1002.53(3), has not completed more than 70 percent  
2054 of the hours authorized to be reported for funding under  
2055 subsection (2), or has not expended more than 70 percent of the  
2056 funds authorized for the child under s. 1002.66, may withdraw  
2057 from the program for good cause and reenroll in one of the  
2058 programs. The total funding for a child who reenrolls in one of  
2059 the programs for good cause may not exceed one full-time  
2060 equivalent student. Funding for a child who withdraws and  
2061 reenrolls in one of the programs for good cause shall be issued  
2062 in accordance with the department's ~~Office of Early Learning's~~  
2063 uniform attendance policy adopted pursuant to paragraph (6)(d).

2064 (b) A child who has not substantially completed any of the  
2065 prekindergarten programs listed in s. 1002.53(3) may withdraw  
2066 from the program due to an extreme hardship that is beyond the  
2067 child's or parent's control, reenroll in one of the summer  
2068 programs, and be reported for funding purposes as a full-time  
2069 equivalent student in the summer program for which the child is  
2070 reenrolled.

2071  
2072 A child may reenroll only once in a prekindergarten program  
2073 under this section. A child who reenrolls in a prekindergarten  
2074 program under this subsection may not subsequently withdraw from  
2075 the program and reenroll, unless the child is granted a good

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2076 | cause exemption under this subsection. The department ~~Office of~~  
2077 | ~~Early Learning~~ shall establish criteria specifying whether a  
2078 | good cause exists for a child to withdraw from a program under  
2079 | paragraph (a), whether a child has substantially completed a  
2080 | program under paragraph (b), and whether an extreme hardship  
2081 | exists which is beyond the child's or parent's control under  
2082 | paragraph (b).

2083 | (5)

2084 | (b) The department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall adopt  
2085 | procedures for the payment of private prekindergarten providers  
2086 | and public schools delivering the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
2087 | Education Program. The procedures shall provide for the advance  
2088 | payment of providers and schools based upon student enrollment  
2089 | in the program, the certification of student attendance, and the  
2090 | reconciliation of advance payments in accordance with the  
2091 | uniform attendance policy adopted under paragraph (6) (d). The  
2092 | procedures shall provide for the monthly distribution of funds  
2093 | by the department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ to the early learning  
2094 | coalitions for payment by the coalitions to private  
2095 | prekindergarten providers and public schools.

2096 | (6)

2097 | (b)1. Each private prekindergarten provider's and district  
2098 | school board's attendance policy must require the parent of each  
2099 | student in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program to  
2100 | verify, each month, the student's attendance on the prior

2101 month's certified student attendance.

2102         2. The parent must submit the verification of the  
 2103 student's attendance to the private prekindergarten provider or  
 2104 public school on forms prescribed by the department ~~Office of~~  
 2105 ~~Early Learning~~. The forms must include, in addition to the  
 2106 verification of the student's attendance, a certification, in  
 2107 substantially the following form, that the parent continues to  
 2108 choose the private prekindergarten provider or public school in  
 2109 accordance with s. 1002.53 and directs that payments for the  
 2110 program be made to the provider or school:

2111                         VERIFICATION OF STUDENT'S ATTENDANCE

2112                         AND CERTIFICATION OF PARENTAL CHOICE

2113 I, ... (Name of Parent) ..., swear (or affirm) that my child,  
 2114 ... (Name of Student) ..., attended the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
 2115 Education Program on the days listed above and certify that I  
 2116 continue to choose ... (Name of Provider or School) ... to deliver  
 2117 the program for my child and direct that program funds be paid  
 2118 to the provider or school for my child.

2119   ...(Signature of Parent)...

2120   ...(Date)...

2121         3. The private prekindergarten provider or public school  
 2122 must keep each original signed form for at least 2 years. Each  
 2123 private prekindergarten provider must permit the early learning  
 2124 coalition, and each public school must permit the school  
 2125 district, to inspect the original signed forms during normal

2126 | business hours. The department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall  
 2127 | adopt procedures for early learning coalitions and school  
 2128 | districts to review the original signed forms against the  
 2129 | certified student attendance. The review procedures shall  
 2130 | provide for the use of selective inspection techniques,  
 2131 | including, but not limited to, random sampling. Each early  
 2132 | learning coalition and the school districts must comply with the  
 2133 | review procedures.

2134 |         (d) The department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall adopt,  
 2135 | for funding purposes, a uniform attendance policy for the  
 2136 | Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program. The attendance  
 2137 | policy must apply statewide and apply equally to all private  
 2138 | prekindergarten providers and public schools. The attendance  
 2139 | policy must include at least the following provisions:

2140 |             1. A student's attendance may be reported on a pro rata  
 2141 | basis as a fractional part of a full-time equivalent student.

2142 |             2. At a maximum, 20 percent of the total payment made on  
 2143 | behalf of a student to a private prekindergarten provider or a  
 2144 | public school may be for hours a student is absent.

2145 |             3. A private prekindergarten provider or public school may  
 2146 | not receive payment for absences that occur before a student's  
 2147 | first day of attendance or after a student's last day of  
 2148 | attendance.

2149 |  
 2150 | The uniform attendance policy shall be used only for funding

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2151 purposes and does not prohibit a private prekindergarten  
2152 provider or public school from adopting and enforcing its  
2153 attendance policy under paragraphs (a) and (c).

2154       (7) The department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall require  
2155 that administrative expenditures be kept to the minimum  
2156 necessary for efficient and effective administration of the  
2157 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program. Administrative  
2158 policies and procedures shall be revised, to the maximum extent  
2159 practicable, to incorporate the use of automation and electronic  
2160 submission of forms, including those required for child  
2161 eligibility and enrollment, provider and class registration, and  
2162 monthly certification of attendance for payment. A school  
2163 district may use its automated daily attendance reporting system  
2164 for the purpose of transmitting attendance records to the early  
2165 learning coalition in a mutually agreed-upon format. In  
2166 addition, actions shall be taken to reduce paperwork, eliminate  
2167 the duplication of reports, and eliminate other duplicative  
2168 activities. Each early learning coalition may retain and expend  
2169 no more than 4.0 percent of the funds paid by the coalition to  
2170 private prekindergarten providers and public schools under  
2171 paragraph (5) (b). Funds retained by an early learning coalition  
2172 under this subsection may be used only for administering the  
2173 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and may not be used  
2174 for the school readiness program or other programs.

2175       Section 44. Subsection (1) of section 1002.72, Florida

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2176 Statutes, is amended to read:

2177 1002.72 Records of children in the Voluntary  
2178 Prekindergarten Education Program.—

2179 (1) (a) The records of a child enrolled in the Voluntary  
2180 Prekindergarten Education Program held by an early learning  
2181 coalition, the department ~~Office of Early Learning~~, or a  
2182 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program provider are  
2183 confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I  
2184 of the State Constitution. For purposes of this section, such  
2185 records include assessment data, health data, records of teacher  
2186 observations, and personal identifying information of an  
2187 enrolled child and his or her parent.

2188 (b) This exemption applies to the records of a child  
2189 enrolled in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program held  
2190 by an early learning coalition, the department ~~Office of Early~~  
2191 ~~Learning~~, or a Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program  
2192 provider before, on, or after the effective date of this  
2193 exemption.

2194 Section 45. Section 1002.73, Florida Statutes, is amended  
2195 to read:

2196 1002.73 Department of Education; powers and duties;  
2197 accountability requirements.—

2198 (1) The department shall adopt by rule a standard  
2199 statewide provider contract to be used with each Voluntary  
2200 Prekindergarten Education Program provider, with standardized



2201 attachments by provider type. The department shall publish a  
 2202 copy of the standard statewide provider contract on its website.  
 2203 The standard statewide provider contract shall include, at a  
 2204 minimum, provisions for provider probation, termination for  
 2205 cause, and emergency termination for actions or inactions of a  
 2206 provider that pose an immediate and serious danger to the  
 2207 health, safety, or welfare of children. The standard statewide  
 2208 provider contract shall also include appropriate due process  
 2209 procedures. During the pendency of an appeal of a termination,  
 2210 the provider may not continue to offer its services. Any  
 2211 provision imposed upon a provider that is inconsistent with, or  
 2212 prohibited by, law is void and unenforceable ~~administer the~~  
 2213 ~~accountability requirements of the Voluntary Prekindergarten~~  
 2214 ~~Education Program at the state level.~~

2215 (2) The department shall adopt procedures for ~~its~~:  
 2216 (a) The approval of prekindergarten director credentials  
 2217 under ss. 1002.55 and 1002.57.

2218 (b) The approval of emergent literacy and early  
 2219 mathematics skills training courses under ss. 1002.55 and  
 2220 1002.59.

2221 (c) Annually notifying private prekindergarten providers  
 2222 and public schools placed on probation for not meeting the  
 2223 minimum performance metric or designation as required by s.  
 2224 1002.68 of the high-quality professional development  
 2225 opportunities developed or supported by the department.

2226           (d) The administration of the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
 2227 Education Program by the early learning coalitions, including,  
 2228 but not limited to, procedures for:

2229           1. Enrolling students in and determining the eligibility  
 2230 of children for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program  
 2231 under s. 1002.53, which shall include the enrollment of children  
 2232 by public schools and private providers that meet specified  
 2233 requirements.

2234           2. Providing parents with profiles of private  
 2235 prekindergarten providers and public schools under s. 1002.53.

2236           3. Registering private prekindergarten providers and  
 2237 public schools to deliver the program under ss. 1002.55,  
 2238 1002.61, and 1002.63.

2239           4. Determining the eligibility of private prekindergarten  
 2240 providers to deliver the program under ss. 1002.55 and 1002.61  
 2241 and streamlining the process of determining provider eligibility  
 2242 whenever possible.

2243           5. Verifying the compliance of private prekindergarten  
 2244 providers and public schools and removing providers or schools  
 2245 from eligibility to deliver the program due to noncompliance or  
 2246 misconduct as provided in s. 1002.67.

2247           6. Paying private prekindergarten providers and public  
 2248 schools under s. 1002.71.

2249           7. Documenting and certifying student enrollment and  
 2250 student attendance under s. 1002.71.

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2251 8. Reconciling advance payments in accordance with the  
2252 uniform attendance policy under s. 1002.71.

2253 9. Reenrolling students dismissed by a private  
2254 prekindergarten provider or public school for noncompliance with  
2255 the provider's or school district's attendance policy under s.  
2256 1002.71.

2257 (3) The department shall administer the accountability  
2258 requirements of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program  
2259 at the state level.

2260 (4) The department shall adopt procedures governing the  
2261 administration of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
2262 Program by the early learning coalitions for:

2263 (a) Approving improvement plans of private prekindergarten  
2264 providers and public schools under s. 1002.68.

2265 (b) Placing private prekindergarten providers and public  
2266 schools on probation and requiring corrective actions under s.  
2267 1002.68.

2268 (c) Removing a private prekindergarten provider or public  
2269 school from eligibility to deliver the program due to the  
2270 provider's or school's remaining on probation beyond the time  
2271 permitted under s. 1002.68. Notwithstanding any other law, if a  
2272 private prekindergarten provider has been cited for a class I  
2273 violation, as defined by rule of the Child Care Services Program  
2274 Office of the Department of Children and Families, the coalition  
2275 may refuse to contract with the provider or revoke the

2276 provider's eligibility to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
 2277 Education Program.

2278 (d) Enrolling children in and determining the eligibility  
 2279 of children for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program  
 2280 under s. 1002.66.

2281 (e) Paying specialized instructional services providers  
 2282 under s. 1002.66.

2283 ~~(c) Administration of the statewide kindergarten screening~~  
 2284 ~~and calculation of kindergarten readiness rates under s.~~  
 2285 ~~1002.69.~~

2286 ~~(d) Implementation of, and determination of costs~~  
 2287 ~~associated with, the state-approved prekindergarten enrollment~~  
 2288 ~~screening and the standardized postassessment approved by the~~  
 2289 ~~department, and determination of the learning gains of students~~  
 2290 ~~who complete the state-approved prekindergarten enrollment~~  
 2291 ~~screening and the standardized postassessment approved by the~~  
 2292 ~~department.~~

2293 (f)(e) Approving Approval of specialized instructional  
 2294 services providers under s. 1002.66.

2295 ~~(f) Annual reporting of the percentage of kindergarten~~  
 2296 ~~students who meet all state readiness measures.~~

2297 (g) Granting of a private prekindergarten provider's or  
 2298 public school's request for a good cause exemption under s.  
 2299 1002.68 s. 1002.69(7).

2300 (5) The department shall adopt procedures for the

2301 distribution of funds to early learning coalitions under s.  
 2302 1002.71.

2303 ~~(6)-(3)~~ Except as provided by law, the department may not  
 2304 impose requirements on a private prekindergarten provider or  
 2305 public school that does not deliver the Voluntary  
 2306 Prekindergarten Education Program or receive state funds under  
 2307 this part.

2308 Section 46. Sections 1002.75, Florida Statutes, is  
 2309 repealed.

2310 Section 47. Section 1002.79, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 2311 to read:

2312 1002.79 Rulemaking authority.—The State Board of Education  
 2313 ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall adopt rules under ss. 120.536(1)  
 2314 and 120.54 to administer the provisions of this part conferring  
 2315 duties upon the department ~~office~~.

2316 Section 48. Section 1002.81, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 2317 to read:

2318 1002.81 Definitions.—Consistent with the requirements of  
 2319 45 C.F.R. parts 98 and 99 and as used in this part, the term:

2320 (1) "At-risk child" means:

2321 (a) A child from a family under investigation by the  
 2322 Department of Children and Families or a designated sheriff's  
 2323 office for child abuse, neglect, abandonment, or exploitation.

2324 (b) A child who is in a diversion program provided by the  
 2325 Department of Children and Families or its contracted provider

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2326 and who is from a family that is actively participating and  
2327 complying in department-prescribed activities, including  
2328 education, health services, or work.

2329 (c) A child from a family that is under supervision by the  
2330 Department of Children and Families or a contracted service  
2331 provider for abuse, neglect, abandonment, or exploitation.

2332 (d) A child placed in court-ordered, long-term custody or  
2333 under the guardianship of a relative or nonrelative after  
2334 termination of supervision by the Department of Children and  
2335 Families or its contracted provider.

2336 (e) A child in the custody of a parent who is considered a  
2337 victim of domestic violence and is receiving services through a  
2338 certified domestic violence center.

2339 (f) A child in the custody of a parent who is considered  
2340 homeless as verified by a Department of Children and Families  
2341 certified homeless shelter.

2342 (2) "Authorized hours of care" means the hours of care  
2343 that are necessary to provide protection, maintain employment,  
2344 or complete work activities or eligible educational activities,  
2345 including reasonable travel time.

2346 (3)~~(4)~~ "Direct enhancement services" means services for  
2347 families and children that are in addition to payments for the  
2348 placement of children in the school readiness program. Direct  
2349 enhancement services for families and children may include  
2350 supports for providers, parent training and involvement

2351 activities, and strategies to meet the needs of unique  
 2352 populations and local eligibility priorities. Direct enhancement  
 2353 services offered by an early learning coalition shall be  
 2354 consistent with the activities prescribed in s. 1002.89(5)(b) ~~s.~~  
 2355 ~~1002.89(6)(b)~~.

2356 (4)~~(5)~~ "Disenrollment" means the removal, either temporary  
 2357 or permanent, of a child from participation in the school  
 2358 readiness program. Removal of a child from the school readiness  
 2359 program may be based on the following events: a reduction in  
 2360 available school readiness program funding, participant's  
 2361 failure to meet eligibility or program participation  
 2362 requirements, fraud, or a change in local service priorities.

2363 (5)~~(6)~~ "Earned income" means gross remuneration derived  
 2364 from work, professional service, or self-employment. The term  
 2365 includes commissions, bonuses, back pay awards, and the cash  
 2366 value of all remuneration paid in a medium other than cash.

2367 (6)~~(7)~~ "Economically disadvantaged" means having a family  
 2368 income that does not exceed 150 percent of the federal poverty  
 2369 level and includes being a child of a working migratory family  
 2370 as defined by 34 C.F.R. s. 200.81(d) or (f) or an agricultural  
 2371 worker who is employed by more than one agricultural employer  
 2372 during the course of a year, and whose income varies according  
 2373 to weather conditions and market stability.

2374 (7)~~(8)~~ "Family income" means the combined gross income,  
 2375 whether earned or unearned, that is derived from any source by

2376 | all family or household members who are 18 years of age or older  
 2377 | who are currently residing together in the same dwelling unit.  
 2378 | The term does not include income earned by a currently enrolled  
 2379 | high school student who, since attaining the age of 18 years, or  
 2380 | a student with a disability who, since attaining the age of 22  
 2381 | years, has not terminated school enrollment or received a high  
 2382 | school diploma, high school equivalency diploma, special  
 2383 | diploma, or certificate of high school completion. The term also  
 2384 | does not include food stamp benefits or federal housing  
 2385 | assistance payments issued directly to a landlord or the  
 2386 | associated utilities expenses.

2387 |       (8)~~(9)~~ "Family or household members" means spouses, former  
 2388 | spouses, persons related by blood or marriage, persons who are  
 2389 | parents of a child in common regardless of whether they have  
 2390 | been married, and other persons who are currently residing  
 2391 | together in the same dwelling unit as if a family.

2392 |       (9)~~(10)~~ "Full-time care" means at least 6 hours, but not  
 2393 | more than 11 hours, of child care or early childhood education  
 2394 | services within a 24-hour period.

2395 |       (10)~~(11)~~ "Market rate" means the price that a child care  
 2396 | or early childhood education provider charges for full-time or  
 2397 | part-time daily, weekly, or monthly child care or early  
 2398 | childhood education services.

2399 |       ~~(12)~~ "Office" means the Office of Early Learning of the  
 2400 | Department of Education.



2401        ~~(11)-(13)~~ "Part-time care" means less than 6 hours of child  
 2402 care or early childhood education services within a 24-hour  
 2403 period.

2404        ~~(12)-(3)~~ "Prevailing Average market rate" means the  
 2405 biennially determined 75th percentile of a reasonable frequency  
 2406 distribution ~~average~~ of the market rate by program care level  
 2407 and provider type in a predetermined geographic market at which  
 2408 child care providers charge a person for child care services.

2409        ~~(13)-(14)~~ "Single point of entry" means an integrated  
 2410 information system that allows a parent to enroll his or her  
 2411 child in the school readiness program or the Voluntary  
 2412 Prekindergarten Education Program at various locations  
 2413 throughout a county, that may allow a parent to enroll his or  
 2414 her child by telephone or through a website, and that uses a  
 2415 uniform waiting list to track eligible children waiting for  
 2416 enrollment in the school readiness program.

2417        ~~(14)-(15)~~ "Unearned income" means income other than earned  
 2418 income. The term includes, but is not limited to:

- 2419            (a) Documented alimony and child support received.
- 2420            (b) Social security benefits.
- 2421            (c) Supplemental security income benefits.
- 2422            (d) Workers' compensation benefits.
- 2423            (e) Reemployment assistance or unemployment compensation
- 2424 benefits.
- 2425            (f) Veterans' benefits.

2426 (g) Retirement benefits.  
 2427 (h) Temporary cash assistance under chapter 414.  
 2428 (15)~~(16)~~ "Working family" means:

2429 (a) A single-parent family in which the parent with whom  
 2430 the child resides is employed or engaged in eligible work or  
 2431 education activities for at least 20 hours per week;

2432 (b) A two-parent family in which both parents with whom  
 2433 the child resides are employed or engaged in eligible work or  
 2434 education activities for a combined total of at least 40 hours  
 2435 per week; or

2436 (c) A two-parent family in which one of the parents with  
 2437 whom the child resides is exempt from work requirements due to  
 2438 age or disability, as determined and documented by a physician  
 2439 licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459, and one parent is  
 2440 employed or engaged in eligible work or education activities at  
 2441 least 20 hours per week.

2442 Section 49. Section 1002.82, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 2443 to read:

2444 1002.82 Department of Education ~~Office of Early Learning~~;  
 2445 powers and duties.—

2446 (1) For purposes of administration of the Child Care and  
 2447 Development Block Grant Trust Fund, pursuant to 45 C.F.R. parts  
 2448 98 and 99, the Department of Education ~~Office of Early Learning~~  
 2449 is designated as the lead agency and must comply with lead  
 2450 agency responsibilities pursuant to federal law. The department

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2451 ~~office~~ may apply to the Governor and Cabinet for a waiver of,  
2452 and the Governor and Cabinet may waive, any provision of ss.  
2453 411.223 and 1003.54 if the waiver is necessary for  
2454 implementation of the school readiness program. Section  
2455 125.901(2)(a)3. does not apply to the school readiness program.

2456 (2) The department ~~office~~ shall:

2457 (a) Focus on improving the educational quality delivered  
2458 by all providers participating in the school readiness program.

2459 (b) Preserve parental choice by permitting parents to  
2460 choose from a variety of child care categories, including  
2461 center-based care, family child care, and informal child care to  
2462 the extent authorized in the state's Child Care and Development  
2463 Fund Plan as approved by the United States Department of Health  
2464 and Human Services pursuant to 45 C.F.R. s. 98.18. Care and  
2465 curriculum by a faith-based provider may not be limited or  
2466 excluded in any of these categories.

2467 (c) Be responsible for the prudent use of all public and  
2468 private funds in accordance with all legal and contractual  
2469 requirements, safeguarding the effective use of federal, state,  
2470 and local resources to achieve the highest practicable level of  
2471 school readiness for the children described in s. 1002.87,  
2472 including:

2473 1. The adoption of a uniform chart of accounts for  
2474 budgeting and financial reporting purposes that provides  
2475 standardized definitions for expenditures and reporting,

2476 consistent with the requirements of 45 C.F.R. part 98 and s.  
2477 1002.89 for each of the following categories of expenditure:

- 2478 a. Direct services to children.  
2479 b. Administrative costs.  
2480 c. Quality activities.  
2481 d. Nondirect services.

2482 2. Coordination with other state and federal agencies to  
2483 perform data matches on children participating in the school  
2484 readiness program and their families in order to verify the  
2485 children's eligibility pursuant to s. 1002.87.

2486 (d) Establish procedures for the biennial calculation of  
2487 the prevailing ~~average~~ market rate.

2488 (e) Review each early learning coalition's school  
2489 readiness program plan every 2 years and provide final approval  
2490 of the plan and any amendments submitted.

2491 (f) Establish a unified approach to the state's efforts to  
2492 coordinate a comprehensive early learning program. In support of  
2493 this effort, the department ~~office~~:

2494 1. Shall adopt specific program support services that  
2495 address the state's school readiness program, including:

2496 a. Statewide data information program requirements that  
2497 include:

2498 (I) Eligibility requirements.

2499 (II) Financial reports.

2500 (III) Program accountability measures.

2501 (IV) Child progress reports.

2502 b. Child care resource and referral services.

2503 c. A single point of entry and uniform waiting list.

2504 2. May provide technical assistance and guidance on

2505 additional support services to complement the school readiness

2506 program, including:

2507 ~~a. Rating and improvement systems.~~

2508 a.b. Warm-Line services.

2509 ~~b.e.~~ Anti-fraud plans.

2510 ~~d. School readiness program standards.~~

2511 ~~e. Child screening and assessments.~~

2512 ~~c.f.~~ Training and support for parental involvement in

2513 children's early education.

2514 ~~d.g.~~ Family literacy activities and services.

2515 (g) Provide technical assistance to early learning

2516 coalitions.

2517 (h) In cooperation with the early learning coalitions,

2518 coordinate with the Child Care Services Program Office of the

2519 Department of Children and Families to reduce paperwork and to

2520 avoid duplicating interagency activities, health and safety

2521 monitoring, and acquiring and composing data pertaining to child

2522 care training and credentialing.

2523 (i) Enter into a memorandum of understanding with local

2524 licensing agencies and the Child Care Services Program Office of

2525 the Department of Children and Families for inspections of

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2526 school readiness program providers to monitor and verify  
2527 compliance with s. 1002.88 and the health and safety checklist  
2528 adopted by the department ~~office~~. The provider contract of a  
2529 school readiness program provider that refuses permission for  
2530 entry or inspection shall be terminated. The health and safety  
2531 checklist may not exceed the requirements of s. 402.305 and the  
2532 Child Care and Development Fund pursuant to 45 C.F.R. part 98. A  
2533 child development program that is accredited by a national  
2534 accrediting body and operates on a military installation that is  
2535 certified by the United States Department of Defense is exempted  
2536 from the inspection requirements under s. 1002.88.

2537 (j) Monitor the alignment and consistency of the ~~Develop~~  
2538 ~~and adopt~~ standards and benchmarks developed and adopted by the  
2539 department that address the age-appropriate progress of children  
2540 in the development of school readiness skills. The standards for  
2541 children from birth to kindergarten entry ~~5 years of age~~ in the  
2542 school readiness program must be aligned with the performance  
2543 standards adopted for children in the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
2544 Education Program and must address the following domains:

- 2545 1. Approaches to learning.
- 2546 2. Cognitive development and general knowledge.
- 2547 3. Numeracy, language, and communication.
- 2548 4. Physical development.
- 2549 5. Self-regulation.

2550 (k) Identify observation-based child assessments that are

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2551 valid, reliable, and developmentally appropriate for use at  
2552 least three times a year. The assessments must:

2553 1. Provide interval level and norm-referenced ~~eriterion-~~  
2554 ~~referenced~~ data that measures equivalent levels of growth across  
2555 the core domains of early childhood development and that can be  
2556 used for determining developmentally appropriate learning gains.

2557 2. Measure progress in the performance standards adopted  
2558 pursuant to paragraph (j).

2559 3. Provide for appropriate accommodations for children  
2560 with disabilities and English language learners and be  
2561 administered by qualified individuals, consistent with the  
2562 developer's instructions.

2563 4. Coordinate with the performance standards adopted by  
2564 the department under s. 1002.67(1) for the Voluntary  
2565 Prekindergarten Education Program.

2566 5. Provide data in a format for use in the single  
2567 statewide information system to meet the requirements of  
2568 paragraph (q) ~~(p)~~.

2569 (l) Adopt a list of approved curricula that meet the  
2570 performance standards for the school readiness program and  
2571 establish a process for the review and approval of a provider's  
2572 curriculum that meets the performance standards.

2573 (m) Provide technical support to an early learning  
2574 coalition to facilitate the use of ~~Adopt by rule~~ a standard  
2575 statewide provider contract adopted by the department to be used

2576 with each school readiness program provider, with standardized  
2577 attachments by provider type. The department ~~office~~ shall  
2578 publish a copy of the standard statewide provider contract on  
2579 its website. The standard statewide contract shall include, at a  
2580 minimum, contracted slots, if applicable, in accordance with the  
2581 Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014, 45 C.F.R.  
2582 parts 98 and 99; quality improvement strategies, if applicable;  
2583 program assessment requirements; and provisions for provider  
2584 probation, termination for cause, and emergency termination for  
2585 those actions or inactions of a provider that pose an immediate  
2586 and serious danger to the health, safety, or welfare of the  
2587 children. The standard statewide provider contract shall also  
2588 include appropriate due process procedures. During the pendency  
2589 of an appeal of a termination, the provider may not continue to  
2590 offer its services. Any provision imposed upon a provider that  
2591 is inconsistent with, or prohibited by, law is void and  
2592 unenforceable. Provisions for termination for cause must also  
2593 include failure to meet the minimum quality measures established  
2594 under paragraph (n) for a period of up to 5 years, unless the  
2595 coalition determines that the provider is essential to meeting  
2596 capacity needs based on the assessment under s. 1002.85(2)(j)  
2597 and the provider has an active improvement plan pursuant to  
2598 paragraph (n).

2599 (n) Adopt a program assessment for school readiness  
2600 program providers that measures the quality of teacher-child



2601 interactions, including emotional and behavioral support,  
2602 engaged support for learning, classroom organization, and  
2603 instructional support for children ages birth to 5 years. The  
2604 implementation of the program assessment must also include the  
2605 following components adopted by rule of the State Board of  
2606 Education:

2607 1. Quality measures, including a minimum program  
2608 assessment composite score threshold for contracting purposes  
2609 and program improvement through an improvement plan. The minimum  
2610 program assessment composite score required for the Voluntary  
2611 Prekindergarten Education Program contracting threshold must be  
2612 the same as the minimum program assessment composite score  
2613 required for contracting for the school readiness program. The  
2614 methodology for the calculation of the minimum program  
2615 assessment composite score shall be reviewed by the independent  
2616 expert identified in s. 1002.68(4)(d).

2617 2. Requirements for program participation, frequency of  
2618 program assessment, and exemptions.

2619 (o) No later than July 1, 2019, develop a differential  
2620 payment program based on the quality measures adopted by the  
2621 department office under paragraph (n). The differential payment  
2622 may not exceed a total of 15 percent for each care level and  
2623 unit of child care for a child care provider. No more than 5  
2624 percent of the 15 percent total differential may be provided to  
2625 providers who submit valid and reliable data to the statewide

2626 information system in the domains of language and executive  
2627 functioning using a child assessment identified pursuant to  
2628 paragraph (k). Providers below the minimum program assessment  
2629 score adopted ~~threshold~~ for contracting purposes are ineligible  
2630 for such payment.

2631 (p) No later than July 1, 2022, develop and adopt  
2632 requirements for the implementation of a program designed to  
2633 make available contracted slots to serve children at the  
2634 greatest risk of school failure as determined by such children  
2635 being located in an area that has been designated as a poverty  
2636 area tract according to the latest census data. The contracted  
2637 slot program may also be used to increase the availability of  
2638 child care capacity based on the assessment under s.  
2639 1002.85(2)(j).

2640 (q) ~~(p)~~ Establish a single statewide information system  
2641 that each coalition must use for the purposes of managing the  
2642 single point of entry, tracking children's progress,  
2643 coordinating services among stakeholders, determining  
2644 eligibility of children, tracking child attendance, and  
2645 streamlining administrative processes for providers and early  
2646 learning coalitions. By July 1, 2019, the system, subject to ss.  
2647 1002.72 and 1002.97, shall:

- 2648 1. Allow a parent to monitor the development of his or her  
2649 child as the child moves among programs within the state.
- 2650 2. Enable analysis at the state, regional, and local level

2651 to measure child growth over time, program impact, and quality  
 2652 improvement and investment decisions.

2653 (r)~~(q)~~ Provide technical support to coalitions to  
 2654 facilitate the use of ~~Adopt by rule~~ standardized procedures  
 2655 adopted in state board rule for early learning coalitions to use  
 2656 when monitoring the compliance of school readiness program  
 2657 providers with the terms of the standard statewide provider  
 2658 contract.

2659 (s)~~(r)~~ At least biennially provide fiscal and programmatic  
 2660 monitoring to ~~Monitor and~~ evaluate the performance of each early  
 2661 learning coalition in administering the school readiness  
 2662 program, ensuring proper payments for school readiness program  
 2663 services, implementing the coalition's school readiness program  
 2664 plan, and administering the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
 2665 Program. These monitoring and performance evaluations must  
 2666 include, at a minimum, onsite monitoring of each coalition's  
 2667 finances, management, operations, and programs.

2668 (t)~~(s)~~ Work in conjunction with the Bureau of Federal  
 2669 Education Programs within the Department of Education to  
 2670 coordinate readiness and voluntary prekindergarten services to  
 2671 the populations served by the bureau.

2672 (u)~~(t)~~ Administer a statewide toll-free Warm-Line to  
 2673 provide assistance and consultation to child care facilities and  
 2674 family day care homes regarding health, developmental,  
 2675 disability, and special needs issues of the children they are

2676 | serving, particularly children with disabilities and other  
 2677 | special needs. The department ~~office~~ shall:

2678 |         1. Annually inform child care facilities and family day  
 2679 | care homes of the availability of this service through the child  
 2680 | care resource and referral network under s. 1002.92.

2681 |         2. Expand or contract for the expansion of the Warm-Line  
 2682 | to maintain at least one Warm-Line in each early learning  
 2683 | coalition service area.

2684 |         (v) ~~(u)~~ Develop and implement strategies to increase the  
 2685 | supply and improve the quality of child care services for  
 2686 | infants and toddlers, children with disabilities, children who  
 2687 | receive care during nontraditional hours, children in  
 2688 | underserved areas, and children in areas that have significant  
 2689 | concentrations of poverty and unemployment.

2690 |         (w) ~~(v)~~ Establish preservice and inservice training  
 2691 | requirements that address, at a minimum, school readiness child  
 2692 | development standards, health and safety requirements, and  
 2693 | social-emotional behavior intervention models, which may include  
 2694 | positive behavior intervention and support models, including the  
 2695 | integration of early learning professional development pathways  
 2696 | established in s. 1002.995.

2697 |         (x) ~~(w)~~ Establish standards for emergency preparedness  
 2698 | plans for school readiness program providers.

2699 |         (y) ~~(x)~~ Establish group sizes.

2700 |         (z) ~~(y)~~ Establish staff-to-children ratios that do not

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2701 exceed the requirements of s. 402.302(8) or (11) or s.  
2702 402.305(4), as applicable, for school readiness program  
2703 providers.

2704 ~~(aa)(z)~~ Establish eligibility criteria, including  
2705 limitations based on income and family assets, in accordance  
2706 with s. 1002.87 and federal law.

2707 (3)(a) The department shall adopt performance standards  
2708 and outcome measures for early learning coalitions that, at a  
2709 minimum, include the development of objective customer service  
2710 surveys that shall be deployed beginning in fiscal year 2022-  
2711 2023 and be distributed to:

2712 1. Customers who use the services in s. 1002.92 upon the  
2713 completion of a referral inquiry.

2714 2. Parents, annually, at the time of eligibility  
2715 determination.

2716 3. Child care providers that participate in the school  
2717 readiness program or the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
2718 Program at the time of execution of the statewide provider  
2719 contract.

2720 4. Board members required under s. 1002.83.

2721 (b) Results of the survey shall be based on a  
2722 statistically significant sample size and calculated annually  
2723 for each early learning coalition and included in the  
2724 department's annual report under subsection (7). If an early  
2725 learning coalition's customer satisfaction survey results are

2726 below 60 percent, the coalition shall be placed on a 1-year  
2727 corrective action plan. If, after being placed on corrective  
2728 action, an early learning coalition's customer satisfaction  
2729 survey results do not improve above the 60 percent threshold,  
2730 the department may contract out or merge the coalition.

2731 (4)~~(3)~~ If the department ~~office~~ determines during the  
2732 review of school readiness program plans, or through monitoring  
2733 and performance evaluations conducted under s. 1002.85, that an  
2734 early learning coalition has not substantially implemented its  
2735 plan, has not substantially met the performance standards and  
2736 outcome measures adopted by the department ~~office~~, or has not  
2737 effectively administered the school readiness program or  
2738 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program, the department  
2739 ~~office~~ may remove the coalition from eligibility to administer  
2740 early learning programs and temporarily contract with a  
2741 qualified entity to continue school readiness program and  
2742 prekindergarten services in the coalition's county or  
2743 multicounty region until the department ~~office~~ reestablishes or  
2744 merges the coalition and a new school readiness program plan is  
2745 approved in accordance with the rules adopted by the state board  
2746 ~~office~~.

2747 (5) The department shall adopt procedures for merging  
2748 early learning coalitions for failure to meet the requirements  
2749 of subsection (3) or subsection (4), including procedures for  
2750 the consolidation of merging coalitions that minimizes

2751 duplication of programs and services due to the merger, and for  
 2752 the early termination of the terms of the coalition members  
 2753 which are necessary to accomplish the mergers.

2754 (6)-(4) The department ~~office~~ may request the Governor to  
 2755 apply for a waiver to allow a coalition to administer the Head  
 2756 Start Program to accomplish the purposes of the school readiness  
 2757 program.

2758 (7)-(5) By January 1 of each year, the department ~~office~~  
 2759 shall annually publish on its website a report of its activities  
 2760 conducted under this section. The report must include a summary  
 2761 of the coalitions' annual reports, a statewide summary, and the  
 2762 following:

2763 (a) An analysis of early learning activities throughout  
 2764 the state, including the school readiness program and the  
 2765 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

2766 1. The total and average number of children served in the  
 2767 school readiness program, enumerated by age, eligibility  
 2768 priority category, and coalition, and the total number of  
 2769 children served in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
 2770 Program.

2771 2. A summary of expenditures by coalition, by fund source,  
 2772 including a breakdown by coalition of the percentage of  
 2773 expenditures for administrative activities, quality activities,  
 2774 nondirect services, and direct services for children.

2775 3. A description of the department's ~~office's~~ and each

2776 coalition's expenditures by fund source for the quality and  
 2777 enhancement activities described in s. 1002.89(5)(b) ~~s.~~  
 2778 ~~1002.89(6)(b)~~.

2779 4. A summary of annual findings and collections related to  
 2780 provider fraud and parent fraud.

2781 5. Data regarding the coalitions' delivery of early  
 2782 learning programs.

2783 6. The total number of children disenrolled statewide and  
 2784 the reason for disenrollment.

2785 7. The total number of providers by provider type.

2786 8. The number of school readiness program providers who  
 2787 have completed the program assessment required under paragraph  
 2788 (2)(n); the number of providers who have not met the minimum  
 2789 program assessment composite score threshold ~~threshold~~ for contracting  
 2790 established under paragraph (2)(n); and the number of providers  
 2791 that have an active improvement plan based on the results of the  
 2792 program assessment under paragraph (2)(n).

2793 9. The total number of provider contracts revoked and the  
 2794 reasons for revocation.

2795 (b) A detailed summary of the analysis compiled using the  
 2796 single statewide information system established in subsection  
 2797 (2) activities and detailed expenditures related to the Child  
 2798 Care Executive Partnership Program.

2799 (8)(a) ~~(6)(a)~~ Parental choice of child care providers,  
 2800 including private and faith-based providers, shall be



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2801 established to the maximum extent practicable in accordance with  
 2802 45 C.F.R. s. 98.30.

2803 (b) As used in this subsection, the term "payment  
 2804 certificate" means a child care certificate as defined in 45  
 2805 C.F.R. s. 98.2.

2806 (c) The school readiness program shall, in accordance with  
 2807 45 C.F.R. s. 98.30, provide parental choice through a payment  
 2808 certificate that provides, to the maximum extent possible,  
 2809 flexibility in the school readiness program and payment  
 2810 arrangements. The payment certificate must bear the names of the  
 2811 beneficiary and the program provider and, when redeemed, must  
 2812 bear the signatures of both the beneficiary and an authorized  
 2813 representative of the provider.

2814 (d) If it is determined that a provider has given any cash  
 2815 or other consideration to the beneficiary in return for  
 2816 receiving a payment certificate, the early learning coalition or  
 2817 its fiscal agent shall refer the matter to the Department of  
 2818 Financial Services pursuant to s. 414.411 for investigation.

2819 (9)~~(7)~~ Participation in the school readiness program does  
 2820 not expand the regulatory authority of the state, its officers,  
 2821 or an early learning coalition to impose any additional  
 2822 regulation on providers beyond those necessary to enforce the  
 2823 requirements set forth in this part and part V of this chapter.

2824 Section 50. Subsections (5) through (14) of section  
 2825 1002.83, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (6)

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2826 through (15), respectively, subsections (1) and (3), paragraphs  
 2827 (e), (f), and (m) of subsection (4), and present subsections  
 2828 (5), (11), and (13) are amended, and a new subsection (5) is  
 2829 added to that section, to read:

2830 1002.83 Early learning coalitions.—

2831 (1) Thirty ~~Thirty-one~~ or fewer early learning coalitions  
 2832 are established and shall maintain direct enhancement services  
 2833 at the local level and provide access to such services in all 67  
 2834 counties. Two or more early learning coalitions may join for  
 2835 purposes of planning and implementing a school readiness program  
 2836 and the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

2837 (3) The Governor shall appoint the chair and two other  
 2838 members of each early learning coalition, who must each meet the  
 2839 ~~same~~ qualifications of a ~~as~~ private sector business member  
 2840 ~~members appointed by the coalition~~ under subsection (6) ~~(5)~~. In  
 2841 the absence of a governor-appointed chair, the Commissioner of  
 2842 Education may appoint an interim chair from the current early  
 2843 learning coalition board membership.

2844 (4) Each early learning coalition must include the  
 2845 following member positions; however, in a multicounty coalition,  
 2846 each ex officio member position may be filled by multiple  
 2847 nonvoting members but no more than one voting member shall be  
 2848 seated per member position. If an early learning coalition has  
 2849 more than one member representing the same entity, only one of  
 2850 such members may serve as a voting member:

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2851 (e) A children's services council or juvenile welfare  
2852 board chair or executive director from each county, if  
2853 applicable.

2854 (f) A Department of Children and Families child care  
2855 regulation representative or an agency head of a local licensing  
2856 agency as defined in s. 402.302, where applicable.

2857 ~~(m) A central agency administrator, where applicable.~~

2858 (5) If members of the board are found to be  
2859 nonparticipating according to the early learning coalition  
2860 bylaws, the early learning coalition may request an alternate  
2861 designee who meets the same qualifications or membership  
2862 requirements of the nonparticipating member.

2863 ~~(6)-(5) The early learning coalition may appoint additional~~  
2864 ~~Including the members who appointed by the Governor under~~  
2865 ~~subsection (3), more than one third of the members of each early~~  
2866 ~~learning coalition must be private sector business members,~~  
2867 ~~either for-profit or nonprofit, who do not have, and none of~~  
2868 ~~whose relatives as defined in s. 112.3143 has, a substantial~~  
2869 ~~financial interest in the design or delivery of the Voluntary~~  
2870 ~~Prekindergarten Education Program created under part V of this~~  
2871 ~~chapter or the school readiness program. To meet this~~  
2872 ~~requirement, an early learning coalition must appoint additional~~  
2873 ~~members. The department office shall establish criteria for~~  
2874 ~~appointing private sector business members. These criteria must~~  
2875 ~~include standards for determining whether a member or relative~~

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2876 has a substantial financial interest in the design or delivery  
2877 of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program or the school  
2878 readiness program.

2879 (12)~~(11)~~ Each early learning coalition shall establish  
2880 terms for all appointed members of the coalition. The terms must  
2881 be staggered and must be a uniform length that does not exceed 4  
2882 years per term. ~~Coalition chairs shall be appointed for 4 years~~  
2883 ~~pursuant to s. 20.052.~~ Appointed members may serve a maximum of  
2884 two consecutive terms. When a vacancy occurs in an appointed  
2885 position, the coalition must advertise the vacancy.

2886 (14)~~(13)~~ Each early learning coalition shall complete an  
2887 annual evaluation of the early learning coalition's executive  
2888 director or chief executive officer on forms adopted by the  
2889 department. The annual evaluation must be submitted to the  
2890 commissioner by June 30 of each year. ~~use a coordinated~~  
2891 ~~professional development system that supports the achievement~~  
2892 ~~and maintenance of core competencies by school readiness program~~  
2893 ~~teachers in helping children attain the performance standards~~  
2894 ~~adopted by the office.~~

2895 Section 51. Subsections (7) through (20) of section  
2896 1002.84, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (8)  
2897 through (21), respectively, subsections (1), (2), and (4) and  
2898 present subsections (7), (8), (15), (16), (17), (18), and (20)  
2899 of that section are amended, and a new subsection (7) is added  
2900 to that section, to read:

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2901           1002.84 Early learning coalitions; school readiness powers  
2902 and duties.—Each early learning coalition shall:

2903           (1) Administer and implement a local comprehensive program  
2904 of school readiness program services in accordance with this  
2905 part and the rules adopted by the department ~~office~~, which  
2906 enhances the cognitive, social, and physical development of  
2907 children to achieve the performance standards.

2908           (2) Establish a uniform waiting list to track eligible  
2909 children waiting for enrollment in the school readiness program  
2910 in accordance with rules adopted by the State Board of Education  
2911 ~~office~~.

2912           (4) Establish a regional Warm-Line as directed by the  
2913 department ~~office~~ pursuant to s. 1002.82(2)(u) ~~s. 1002.82(2)(t)~~.  
2914 Regional Warm-Line staff shall provide onsite technical  
2915 assistance, when requested, to assist child care facilities and  
2916 family day care homes with inquiries relating to the strategies,  
2917 curriculum, and environmental adaptations the child care  
2918 facilities and family day care homes may need as they serve  
2919 children with disabilities and other special needs.

2920           (7) Use a coordinated professional development system that  
2921 supports the achievement and maintenance of core competencies by  
2922 school readiness program teachers in helping children attain the  
2923 performance standards adopted by the department.

2924           (8) ~~(7)~~ Determine child eligibility pursuant to s. 1002.87  
2925 and provider eligibility pursuant to s. 1002.88. Child

2926 | eligibility must be redetermined annually. A coalition must  
 2927 | document the reason a child is no longer eligible for the school  
 2928 | readiness program according to the standard codes prescribed by  
 2929 | the department ~~office~~.

2930 |        ~~(9)(8)~~ Establish a parent sliding fee scale that provides  
 2931 | for a parent copayment that is not a barrier to families  
 2932 | receiving school readiness program services. ~~Providers are~~  
 2933 | ~~required to collect the parent's copayment.~~ A coalition may, ~~on~~  
 2934 | ~~a case-by-case basis,~~ waive the copayment for an at-risk child  
 2935 | or temporarily waive the copayment for a child whose family's  
 2936 | income is at or below the federal poverty level or ~~and~~ whose  
 2937 | family experiences a natural disaster or an event that limits  
 2938 | the parent's ability to pay, such as incarceration, placement in  
 2939 | residential treatment, or becoming homeless, or an emergency  
 2940 | situation such as a household fire or burglary, or while the  
 2941 | parent is participating in parenting classes or participating in  
 2942 | an Early Head Start program or Head Start Program. A parent may  
 2943 | not transfer school readiness program services to another school  
 2944 | readiness program provider until the parent has submitted  
 2945 | documentation from the current school readiness program provider  
 2946 | to the early learning coalition stating that the parent has  
 2947 | satisfactorily fulfilled the copayment obligation.

2948 |        ~~(16)(15)~~ Monitor school readiness program providers in  
 2949 | accordance with its plan, or in response to a parental  
 2950 | complaint, to verify that the standards prescribed in ss.

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2951 1002.82 and 1002.88 are being met using a standard monitoring  
2952 tool adopted by the department ~~office~~. Providers determined to  
2953 be high-risk by the coalition, as demonstrated by substantial  
2954 findings of violations of federal law or the general or local  
2955 laws of the state, shall be monitored more frequently. Providers  
2956 with 3 consecutive years of compliance may be monitored  
2957 biennially.

2958 (17)~~(16)~~ Adopt a payment schedule that encompasses all  
2959 programs funded under this part and part V of this chapter. The  
2960 payment schedule must take into consideration the prevailing  
2961 ~~average~~ market rate, include the projected number of children to  
2962 be served, and be submitted for approval by the department  
2963 ~~office~~. Informal child care arrangements shall be reimbursed at  
2964 not more than 50 percent of the rate adopted for a family day  
2965 care home.

2966 (18)~~(17)~~ Implement an anti-fraud plan addressing the  
2967 detection, reporting, and prevention of overpayments, abuse, and  
2968 fraud relating to the provision of and payment for school  
2969 readiness program and Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
2970 Program services and submit the plan to the department ~~office~~  
2971 for approval, as required by s. 1002.91.

2972 (19)~~(18)~~ By October 1 of each year, submit an annual  
2973 report to the department ~~office~~. The report shall conform to the  
2974 format adopted by the department ~~office~~ and must include:

2975 (a) Segregation of school readiness program funds,

2976 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program funds, ~~Child Care~~  
 2977 ~~Executive Partnership Program funds~~, and other local revenues  
 2978 available to the coalition.

2979 (b) Details of expenditures by fund source, including  
 2980 total expenditures for administrative activities, quality  
 2981 activities, nondirect services, and direct services for  
 2982 children.

2983 (c) The total number of coalition staff and the related  
 2984 expenditures for salaries and benefits. For any subcontracts,  
 2985 the total number of contracted staff and the related  
 2986 expenditures for salaries and benefits must be included.

2987 (d) The number of children served in the school readiness  
 2988 program, by provider type, enumerated by age and eligibility  
 2989 priority category, reported as the number of children served  
 2990 during the month, the average participation throughout the  
 2991 month, and the number of children served during the month.

2992 (e) The total number of children disenrolled during the  
 2993 year and the reasons for disenrollment.

2994 (f) The total number of providers by provider type.

2995 (g) A listing of any school readiness program provider, by  
 2996 type, whose eligibility to deliver the school readiness program  
 2997 is revoked, including a brief description of the state or  
 2998 federal violation that resulted in the revocation.

2999 (h) An evaluation of its direct enhancement services.

3000 (i) The total number of children served in each provider



3001 facility.

3002 (21) (a) (20) To increase transparency and accountability,

3003 comply with the requirements of this section before contracting

3004 with one or more of the following persons or business entities

3005 which employs, has a contractual relationship with, or is owned

3006 by the following persons:

3007 1. A member of the coalition appointed pursuant to s.

3008 1002.83(3);

3009 2. A board member of any other early learning subrecipient

3010 entity;

3011 3. A coalition employee; or

3012 4. A relative, as defined in s. 112.3143(1) (c), of any

3013 person listed in subparagraphs 1.-3 a coalition member or of an

3014 employee of the coalition.

3015 (b) Such contracts may not be executed without the

3016 approval of the department office. Such contracts, as well as

3017 documentation demonstrating adherence to this section by the

3018 coalition, must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the

3019 coalition, a quorum having been established; all conflicts of

3020 interest must be disclosed before the vote; and any member who

3021 may benefit from the contract, or whose relative may benefit

3022 from the contract, must abstain from the vote. A contract under

3023 \$25,000 ~~between an early learning coalition and a member of that~~

3024 ~~coalition or between a relative, as defined in s.~~

3025 ~~112.3143(1) (c), of a coalition member or of an employee of the~~

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3026 ~~coalition~~ is not required to have the prior approval of the  
3027 department ~~office~~ but must be approved by a two-thirds vote of  
3028 the coalition, a quorum having been established, and must be  
3029 reported to the department ~~office~~ within 30 days after approval.  
3030 If a contract cannot be approved by the department ~~office~~, a  
3031 review of the decision to disapprove the contract may be  
3032 requested by the early learning coalition or other parties to  
3033 the disapproved contract.

3034 Section 52. Section 1002.85, Florida Statutes, is amended  
3035 to read:

3036 1002.85 Early learning coalition plans.—

3037 (1) The department ~~office~~ shall adopt rules prescribing  
3038 the standardized format and required content of school readiness  
3039 program plans as necessary for a coalition or other qualified  
3040 entity to administer the school readiness program as provided in  
3041 this part.

3042 (2) Each early learning coalition must biennially submit a  
3043 school readiness program plan to the department ~~office~~ before  
3044 the expenditure of funds. A coalition may not implement its  
3045 school readiness program plan until it receives approval from  
3046 the department ~~office~~. A coalition may not implement any  
3047 revision to its school readiness program plan until the  
3048 coalition submits the revised plan to and receives approval from  
3049 the department ~~office~~. If the department ~~office~~ rejects a plan  
3050 or revision, the coalition must continue to operate under its

3051 | previously approved plan. The plan must include, but is not  
 3052 | limited to:

3053 |       (a) The coalition's operations, including its membership  
 3054 | and business organization, and the coalition's articles of  
 3055 | incorporation and bylaws if the coalition is organized as a  
 3056 | corporation. If the coalition is not organized as a corporation  
 3057 | or other business entity, the plan must include the contract  
 3058 | with a fiscal agent.

3059 |       (b) The minimum number of children to be served by care  
 3060 | level.

3061 |       (c) The coalition's procedures for implementing the  
 3062 | requirements of this part, including:

- 3063 |           1. Single point of entry.
- 3064 |           2. Uniform waiting list.
- 3065 |           3. Eligibility and enrollment processes and local  
 3066 | eligibility priorities for children pursuant to s. 1002.87.
- 3067 |           4. Parent access and choice.
- 3068 |           5. Sliding fee scale and policies on applying the waiver  
 3069 | or reduction of fees in accordance with s. 1002.84(9) ~~s.~~  
 3070 | ~~1002.84(8)~~.
- 3071 |           6. Use of preassessments and postassessments, as  
 3072 | applicable.
- 3073 |           7. Payment rate schedule.
- 3074 |           8. Use of contracted slots, as applicable, based on the  
 3075 | results of the assessment required under paragraph (j).

3076 (d) A detailed description of the coalition's quality  
 3077 activities and services, including, but not limited to:  
 3078 1. Resource and referral and school-age child care.  
 3079 2. Infant and toddler early learning.  
 3080 3. Inclusive early learning programs.  
 3081 4. Quality improvement strategies that strengthen teaching  
 3082 practices and increase child outcomes.

3083 (e) A detailed budget that outlines estimated expenditures  
 3084 for state, federal, and local matching funds at the lowest level  
 3085 of detail available by other-cost-accumulator code number; all  
 3086 estimated sources of revenue with identifiable descriptions; a  
 3087 listing of full-time equivalent positions; contracted  
 3088 subcontractor costs with related annual compensation amount or  
 3089 hourly rate of compensation; and a capital improvements plan  
 3090 outlining existing fixed capital outlay projects and proposed  
 3091 capital outlay projects that will begin during the budget year.

3092 (f) A detailed accounting, in the format prescribed by the  
 3093 department ~~office~~, of all revenues and expenditures during the  
 3094 previous state fiscal year. Revenue sources should be  
 3095 identifiable, and expenditures should be reported by two ~~three~~  
 3096 categories: state and federal funds and ~~and~~ local matching funds ~~and~~  
 3097 ~~and Child Care Executive Partnership Program funds.~~

3098 (g) Updated policies and procedures, including those  
 3099 governing procurement, maintenance of tangible personal  
 3100 property, maintenance of records, information technology

3101 security, and disbursement controls.

3102 (h) A description of the procedures for monitoring school  
3103 readiness program providers, including in response to a parental  
3104 complaint, to determine that the standards prescribed in ss.  
3105 1002.82 and 1002.88 are met using a standard monitoring tool  
3106 adopted by the department ~~office~~. Providers determined to be  
3107 high risk by the coalition as demonstrated by substantial  
3108 findings of violations of law shall be monitored more  
3109 frequently.

3110 (i) Documentation that the coalition has solicited and  
3111 considered comments regarding the proposed school readiness  
3112 program plan from the local community.

3113 (j) An assessment of local priorities within the county or  
3114 multicounty region based on the needs of families and provider  
3115 capacity using available community data.

3116 (3) The coalition may periodically amend its plan as  
3117 necessary. An amended plan must be submitted to and approved by  
3118 the department ~~office~~ before any expenditures are incurred on  
3119 the new activities proposed in the amendment.

3120 (4) The department ~~office~~ shall publish a copy of the  
3121 standardized format and required content of school readiness  
3122 program plans on its website.

3123 (5) The department ~~office~~ shall collect and report data on  
3124 coalition delivery of early learning programs. Elements shall  
3125 include, but are not limited to, measures related to progress

3126 | towards reducing the number of children on the waiting list, the  
3127 | percentage of children served by the program as compared to the  
3128 | number of administrative staff and overhead, the percentage of  
3129 | children served compared to total number of children under the  
3130 | age of 5 years below 150 percent of the federal poverty level,  
3131 | provider payment processes, fraud intervention, child attendance  
3132 | and stability, use of child care resource and referral, and  
3133 | kindergarten readiness outcomes for children in the Voluntary  
3134 | Prekindergarten Education Program or the school readiness  
3135 | program upon entry into kindergarten. The department ~~office~~  
3136 | shall request input from the coalitions and school readiness  
3137 | program providers before finalizing the format and data to be  
3138 | used. The report shall be implemented beginning July 1, 2014,  
3139 | and results of the report must be included in the annual report  
3140 | under s. 1002.82.

3141 | Section 53. Paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (e), (f), (m), (n),  
3142 | (p), and (q) of subsection (1) and subsection (3) of section  
3143 | 1002.88, Florida Statutes, are amended, and paragraph (s) is  
3144 | added to subsection (1) of that section, to read:

3145 | 1002.88 School readiness program provider standards;  
3146 | eligibility to deliver the school readiness program.—

3147 | (1) To be eligible to deliver the school readiness  
3148 | program, a school readiness program provider must:

3149 | (a) Be a child care facility licensed under s. 402.305, a  
3150 | family day care home licensed or registered under s. 402.313, a

3151 large family child care home licensed under s. 402.3131, a  
3152 public school or nonpublic school exempt from licensure under s.  
3153 402.3025, a faith-based child care provider exempt from  
3154 licensure under s. 402.316, a before-school or after-school  
3155 program described in s. 402.305(1)(c), a child development  
3156 program that is accredited by a national accrediting body and  
3157 operates on a military installation that is certified by the  
3158 United States Department of Defense, ~~or~~ an informal child care  
3159 provider to the extent authorized in the state's Child Care and  
3160 Development Fund Plan as approved by the United States  
3161 Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to 45 C.F.R. s.  
3162 98.18, or a provider who has been issued a provisional license  
3163 pursuant to s. 402.309. A provider may not deliver the program  
3164 while holding a probation-status license under s. 402.310.

3165 (b) Provide instruction and activities to enhance the age-  
3166 appropriate progress of each child in attaining the child  
3167 development standards adopted by the department ~~office~~ pursuant  
3168 to s. 1002.82(2)(j). A provider should include activities to  
3169 foster brain development in infants and toddlers; provide an  
3170 environment that is rich in language and music and filled with  
3171 objects of various colors, shapes, textures, and sizes to  
3172 stimulate visual, tactile, auditory, and linguistic senses; and  
3173 include 30 minutes of reading to children each day.

3174 (c) Provide basic health and safety of its premises and  
3175 facilities and compliance with requirements for age-appropriate

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3176 immunizations of children enrolled in the school readiness  
3177 program.

3178 1. For a provider that is licensed, compliance with s.  
3179 402.305, s. 402.3131, or s. 402.313 and this subsection, as  
3180 verified pursuant to s. 402.311, satisfies this requirement.

3181 2. For a provider that is a registered family day care  
3182 home or is not subject to licensure or registration by the  
3183 Department of Children and Families, compliance with this  
3184 subsection, as verified pursuant to s. 402.311, satisfies this  
3185 requirement. Upon verification pursuant to s. 402.311, the  
3186 provider shall annually post the health and safety checklist  
3187 adopted by the department ~~office~~ prominently on its premises in  
3188 plain sight for visitors and parents and shall annually submit  
3189 the checklist to its local early learning coalition.

3190 3. For a child development program that is accredited by a  
3191 national accrediting body and operates on a military  
3192 installation that is certified by the United States Department  
3193 of Defense, the submission and verification of annual  
3194 inspections pursuant to United States Department of Defense  
3195 Instructions 6060.2 and 1402.05 satisfies this requirement.

3196 (e) Employ child care personnel, as defined in s.  
3197 402.302(3), who have satisfied the screening requirements of  
3198 chapter 402 and fulfilled the training requirements of the  
3199 department ~~office~~.

3200 (f) Implement one of the curricula approved by the



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3201 department ~~office~~ that meets the child development standards.

3202 (m) For a provider that is not an informal provider,  
3203 maintain general liability insurance and provide the coalition  
3204 with written evidence of general liability insurance coverage,  
3205 including coverage for transportation of children if school  
3206 readiness program children are transported by the provider. A  
3207 provider must obtain and retain an insurance policy that  
3208 provides a minimum of \$100,000 of coverage per occurrence and a  
3209 minimum of \$300,000 general aggregate coverage. The department  
3210 ~~office~~ may authorize lower limits upon request, as appropriate.  
3211 A provider must add the coalition as a named certificateholder  
3212 and as an additional insured. A provider must provide the  
3213 coalition with a minimum of 10 calendar days' advance written  
3214 notice of cancellation of or changes to coverage. The general  
3215 liability insurance required by this paragraph must remain in  
3216 full force and effect for the entire period of the provider  
3217 contract with the coalition.

3218 (n) For a provider that is an informal provider, comply  
3219 with the provisions of paragraph (m) or maintain homeowner's  
3220 liability insurance and, if applicable, a business rider. If an  
3221 informal provider chooses to maintain a homeowner's policy, the  
3222 provider must obtain and retain a homeowner's insurance policy  
3223 that provides a minimum of \$100,000 of coverage per occurrence  
3224 and a minimum of \$300,000 general aggregate coverage. The  
3225 department ~~office~~ may authorize lower limits upon request, as

3226 appropriate. An informal provider must add the coalition as a  
 3227 named certificateholder and as an additional insured. An  
 3228 informal provider must provide the coalition with a minimum of  
 3229 10 calendar days' advance written notice of cancellation of or  
 3230 changes to coverage. The general liability insurance required by  
 3231 this paragraph must remain in full force and effect for the  
 3232 entire period of the provider's contract with the coalition.

3233 (p) Notwithstanding paragraph (m), for a provider that is  
 3234 a state agency or a subdivision thereof, as defined in s.  
 3235 768.28(2), agree to notify the coalition of any additional  
 3236 liability coverage maintained by the provider in addition to  
 3237 that otherwise established under s. 768.28. The provider shall  
 3238 indemnify the coalition to the extent permitted by s. 768.28.  
 3239 Notwithstanding paragraph (m), for a child development program  
 3240 that is accredited by a national accrediting body and operates  
 3241 on a military installation that is certified by the United  
 3242 States Department of Defense, the provider may demonstrate  
 3243 liability coverage by affirming that it is subject to the  
 3244 Federal Tort Claims Act, 28 U.S.C. ss. 2671 et seq.

3245 (q) Execute the standard statewide provider contract  
 3246 adopted by the department ~~office~~.

3247 (s) Collect all parent copayment fees unless a waiver has  
 3248 been granted under s. 1002.84(9).

3249 (3) The department ~~office~~ and the coalitions may not:

3250 (a) Impose any requirement on a child care provider or

3251 early childhood education provider that does not deliver  
 3252 services under the school readiness program or receive state or  
 3253 federal funds under this part;

3254 (b) Impose any requirement on a school readiness program  
 3255 provider that exceeds the authority provided under this part or  
 3256 part V of this chapter or rules adopted pursuant to this part or  
 3257 part V of this chapter; or

3258 (c) Require a provider to administer a preassessment or  
 3259 postassessment.

3260 Section 54. Subsections (3) through (7) of section  
 3261 1002.89, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (2)  
 3262 through (6), respectively, and subsection (2) and present  
 3263 subsections (3) and (6) of that section are amended, to read:

3264 1002.89 School readiness program; funding.—

3265 ~~(2) The office shall administer school readiness program~~  
 3266 ~~funds and prepare and submit a unified budget request for the~~  
 3267 ~~school readiness program in accordance with chapter 216.~~

3268 (2)~~(3)~~ All instructions to early learning coalitions for  
 3269 administering this section shall emanate from the department  
 3270 ~~office~~ in accordance with the policies of the Legislature.

3271 (5)~~(6)~~ Costs shall be kept to the minimum necessary for  
 3272 the efficient and effective administration of the school  
 3273 readiness program with the highest priority of expenditure being  
 3274 direct services for eligible children. However, no more than 5  
 3275 percent of the funds described in subsection (4) ~~subsection (5)~~

3276 | may be used for administrative costs and no more than 22 percent  
 3277 | of the funds described in subsection (4) ~~subsection (5)~~ may be  
 3278 | used in any fiscal year for any combination of administrative  
 3279 | costs, quality activities, and nondirect services as follows:

3280 |       (a) Administrative costs as described in 45 C.F.R. s.  
 3281 | 98.54 ~~45 C.F.R. s. 98.52~~, which shall include monitoring  
 3282 | providers using the standard methodology adopted under s.  
 3283 | 1002.82 to improve compliance with state and federal regulations  
 3284 | and law pursuant to the requirements of the statewide provider  
 3285 | contract adopted under s. 1002.82(2)(m).

3286 |       (b) Activities to improve the quality of child care as  
 3287 | described in 45 C.F.R. s. 98.53 ~~45 C.F.R. s. 98.51~~, which shall  
 3288 | be limited to the following:

3289 |           1. Developing, establishing, expanding, operating, and  
 3290 | coordinating resource and referral programs specifically related  
 3291 | to the provision of comprehensive consumer education to parents  
 3292 | and the public to promote informed child care choices specified  
 3293 | in 45 C.F.R. s. 98.33.

3294 |           2. Awarding grants and providing financial support to  
 3295 | school readiness program providers and their staff to assist  
 3296 | them in meeting applicable state requirements for the program  
 3297 | assessment required under s. 1002.82(2)(n), child care  
 3298 | performance standards, implementing developmentally appropriate  
 3299 | curricula and related classroom resources that support  
 3300 | curricula, providing literacy supports, and providing continued

3301 professional development and training. Any grants awarded  
 3302 pursuant to this subparagraph shall comply with ss. 215.971 and  
 3303 287.058.

3304 3. Providing training, technical assistance, and financial  
 3305 support to school readiness program providers, staff, and  
 3306 parents on standards, child screenings, child assessments, child  
 3307 development research and best practices, developmentally  
 3308 appropriate curricula, character development, teacher-child  
 3309 interactions, age-appropriate discipline practices, health and  
 3310 safety, nutrition, first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, the  
 3311 recognition of communicable diseases, and child abuse detection,  
 3312 prevention, and reporting.

3313 4. Providing, from among the funds provided for the  
 3314 activities described in subparagraphs 1.-3., adequate funding  
 3315 for infants and toddlers as necessary to meet federal  
 3316 requirements related to expenditures for quality activities for  
 3317 infant and toddler care.

3318 5. Improving the monitoring of compliance with, and  
 3319 enforcement of, applicable state and local requirements as  
 3320 described in and limited by 45 C.F.R. s. 98.40.

3321 6. Responding to Warm-Line requests by providers and  
 3322 parents, including providing developmental and health screenings  
 3323 to school readiness program children.

3324 (c) Nondirect services as described in applicable Office  
 3325 of Management and Budget instructions are those services not

3326 defined as administrative, direct, or quality services that are  
 3327 required to administer the school readiness program. Such  
 3328 services include, but are not limited to:

- 3329 1. Assisting families to complete the required application
- 3330 and eligibility documentation.
- 3331 2. Determining child and family eligibility.
- 3332 3. Recruiting eligible child care providers.
- 3333 4. Processing and tracking attendance records.
- 3334 5. Developing and maintaining a statewide child care
- 3335 information system.

3336  
 3337 As used in this paragraph, the term "nondirect services" does  
 3338 not include payments to school readiness program providers for  
 3339 direct services provided to children who are eligible under s.  
 3340 1002.87, administrative costs as described in paragraph (a), or  
 3341 quality activities as described in paragraph (b).

3342 Section 55. Subsection (1), paragraph (a) of subsection  
 3343 (2), and subsections (4), (5), and (6) of section 1002.895,  
 3344 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

3345 1002.895 Market rate schedule.—The school readiness  
 3346 program market rate schedule shall be implemented as follows:

3347 (1) The department ~~office~~ shall establish procedures for  
 3348 the adoption of a market rate schedule. The schedule must  
 3349 include, at a minimum, county-by-county rates:

3350 (a) The market rate, including the minimum and the maximum

3351 rates for child care providers that hold a Gold Seal Quality  
 3352 Care designation under s. 1002.945 and adhere to its accrediting  
 3353 association's teacher-to-child ratios and group size  
 3354 requirements ~~s. 402.281~~.

3355 (b) The market rate for child care providers that do not  
 3356 hold a Gold Seal Quality Care designation.

3357 (2) The market rate schedule, at a minimum, must:

3358 (a) Differentiate rates by type, including, but not  
 3359 limited to, a child care provider that holds a Gold Seal Quality  
 3360 Care designation under s. 1002.945 and adheres to its  
 3361 accrediting association's teacher-to-child ratios and group size  
 3362 requirements ~~s. 402.281~~, a child care facility licensed under s.  
 3363 402.305, a public or nonpublic school exempt from licensure  
 3364 under s. 402.3025, a faith-based child care facility exempt from  
 3365 licensure under s. 402.316 that does not hold a Gold Seal  
 3366 Quality Care designation, a large family child care home  
 3367 licensed under s. 402.3131, or a family day care home licensed  
 3368 or registered under s. 402.313.

3369 (4) The market rate schedule shall be considered by an  
 3370 early learning coalition in the adoption of a payment schedule.  
 3371 The payment schedule must take into consideration the prevailing  
 3372 average market rate ~~and~~ include the projected number of  
 3373 children to be served by each county and be submitted for  
 3374 approval by the department ~~office~~. Informal child care  
 3375 arrangements shall be reimbursed at not more than 50 percent of

3376 | the rate adopted for a family day care home.

3377 |       (5) The department ~~office~~ may contract with one or more  
3378 | qualified entities to administer this section and provide  
3379 | support and technical assistance for child care providers.

3380 |       (6) The department ~~office~~ may adopt rules for establishing  
3381 | procedures for the collection of child care providers' market  
3382 | rate, the calculation of the prevailing ~~average~~ market rate by  
3383 | program care level and provider type in a predetermined  
3384 | geographic market, and the publication of the market rate  
3385 | schedule.

3386 |       Section 56. Section 1002.91, Florida Statutes, is amended  
3387 | to read:

3388 |       1002.91 Investigations of fraud or overpayment;  
3389 | penalties.—

3390 |       (1) As used in this subsection, the term "fraud" means an  
3391 | intentional deception, omission, or misrepresentation made by a  
3392 | person with knowledge that the deception, omission, or  
3393 | misrepresentation may result in unauthorized benefit to that  
3394 | person or another person, or any aiding and abetting of the  
3395 | commission of such an act. The term includes any act that  
3396 | constitutes fraud under applicable federal or state law.

3397 |       (2) To recover state, federal, and local matching funds,  
3398 | the department ~~office~~ shall investigate early learning  
3399 | coalitions, recipients, and providers of the school readiness  
3400 | program and the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program to



3401 determine possible fraud or overpayment. If by its own  
3402 inquiries, or as a result of a complaint, the department ~~office~~  
3403 has reason to believe that a person, coalition, or provider has  
3404 engaged in, or is engaging in, a fraudulent act, it shall  
3405 investigate and determine whether any overpayment has occurred  
3406 due to the fraudulent act. During the investigation, the  
3407 department ~~office~~ may examine all records, including electronic  
3408 benefits transfer records, and make inquiry of all persons who  
3409 may have knowledge as to any irregularity incidental to the  
3410 disbursement of public moneys or other items or benefits  
3411 authorizations to recipients.

3412 (3) Based on the results of the investigation, the  
3413 department ~~office~~ may, in its discretion, refer the  
3414 investigation to the Department of Financial Services for  
3415 criminal investigation or refer the matter to the applicable  
3416 coalition. Any suspected criminal violation identified by the  
3417 department ~~office~~ must be referred to the Department of  
3418 Financial Services for criminal investigation.

3419 (4) An early learning coalition may suspend or terminate a  
3420 provider from participation in the school readiness program or  
3421 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program when it has  
3422 reasonable cause to believe that the provider has committed  
3423 fraud. The department ~~office~~ shall adopt by rule appropriate due  
3424 process procedures that the early learning coalition shall apply  
3425 in suspending or terminating any provider, including the

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3426 suspension or termination of payment. If suspended, the provider  
3427 shall remain suspended until the completion of any investigation  
3428 by the department ~~office~~, the Department of Financial Services,  
3429 or any other state or federal agency, and any subsequent  
3430 prosecution or other legal proceeding.

3431 (5) If a school readiness program provider or a Voluntary  
3432 Prekindergarten Education Program provider, or an owner,  
3433 officer, or director thereof, is convicted of, found guilty of,  
3434 or pleads guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of  
3435 adjudication, public assistance fraud pursuant to s. 414.39, or  
3436 is acting as the beneficial owner for someone who has been  
3437 convicted of, found guilty of, or pleads guilty or nolo  
3438 contendere to, regardless of adjudication, public assistance  
3439 fraud pursuant to s. 414.39, the early learning coalition shall  
3440 refrain from contracting with, or using the services of, that  
3441 provider for a period of 5 years. In addition, the coalition  
3442 shall refrain from contracting with, or using the services of,  
3443 any provider that shares an officer or director with a provider  
3444 that is convicted of, found guilty of, or pleads guilty or nolo  
3445 contendere to, regardless of adjudication, public assistance  
3446 fraud pursuant to s. 414.39 for a period of 5 years.

3447 (6) If the investigation is not confidential or otherwise  
3448 exempt from disclosure by law, the results of the investigation  
3449 may be reported by the department ~~office~~ to the appropriate  
3450 legislative committees, the Department of Children and Families,

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3451 and such other persons as the department ~~office~~ deems  
3452 appropriate.

3453 (7) The early learning coalition may not contract with a  
3454 school readiness program provider or a Voluntary Prekindergarten  
3455 Education Program provider who is on the United States  
3456 Department of Agriculture National Disqualified List. In  
3457 addition, the coalition may not contract with any provider that  
3458 shares an officer or director with a provider that is on the  
3459 United States Department of Agriculture National Disqualified  
3460 List.

3461 (8) Each early learning coalition shall adopt an anti-  
3462 fraud plan addressing the detection and prevention of  
3463 overpayments, abuse, and fraud relating to the provision of and  
3464 payment for school readiness program and Voluntary  
3465 Prekindergarten Education Program services and submit the plan  
3466 to the department ~~office~~ for approval. The department ~~office~~  
3467 shall adopt rules establishing criteria for the anti-fraud plan,  
3468 including appropriate due process provisions. The anti-fraud  
3469 plan must include, at a minimum:

3470 (a) A written description or chart outlining the  
3471 organizational structure of the plan's personnel who are  
3472 responsible for the investigation and reporting of possible  
3473 overpayment, abuse, or fraud.

3474 (b) A description of the plan's procedures for detecting  
3475 and investigating possible acts of fraud, abuse, or overpayment.

3476 (c) A description of the plan's procedures for the  
 3477 mandatory reporting of possible overpayment, abuse, or fraud to  
 3478 the Office of Inspector General within the department ~~office~~.

3479 (d) A description of the plan's program and procedures for  
 3480 educating and training personnel on how to detect and prevent  
 3481 fraud, abuse, and overpayment.

3482 (e) A description of the plan's procedures, including the  
 3483 appropriate due process provisions adopted by the department  
 3484 ~~office~~ for suspending or terminating from the school readiness  
 3485 program or the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program a  
 3486 recipient or provider who the early learning coalition believes  
 3487 has committed fraud.

3488 (9) A person who commits an act of fraud as defined in  
 3489 this section is subject to the penalties provided in s.  
 3490 414.39(5) (a) and (b).

3491 Section 57. Subsections (1) and (2) and paragraphs (a),  
 3492 (c), and (d) of subsection (3) of section 1002.92, Florida  
 3493 Statutes, are amended to read:

3494 1002.92 Child care and early childhood resource and  
 3495 referral.—

3496 (1) As a part of the school readiness program, the  
 3497 department ~~office~~ shall establish a statewide child care  
 3498 resource and referral network that is unbiased and provides  
 3499 referrals to families for child care and information on  
 3500 available community resources. Preference shall be given to

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3501 using early learning coalitions as the child care resource and  
3502 referral agencies. If an early learning coalition cannot comply  
3503 with the requirements to offer the resource information  
3504 component or does not want to offer that service, the early  
3505 learning coalition shall select the resource and referral agency  
3506 for its county or multicounty region based upon the procurement  
3507 requirements of s. 1002.84(13) ~~s. 1002.84(12)~~.

3508 (2) At least one child care resource and referral agency  
3509 must be established in each early learning coalition's county or  
3510 multicounty region. The department ~~office~~ shall adopt rules  
3511 regarding accessibility of child care resource and referral  
3512 services offered through child care resource and referral  
3513 agencies in each county or multicounty region which include, at  
3514 a minimum, required hours of operation, methods by which parents  
3515 may request services, and child care resource and referral staff  
3516 training requirements.

3517 (3) Child care resource and referral agencies shall  
3518 provide the following services:

3519 (a) Identification of existing public and private child  
3520 care and early childhood education services, including child  
3521 care services by public and private employers, and the  
3522 development of an early learning provider performance profile ~~a~~  
3523 ~~resource file~~ of those services through the single statewide  
3524 information system developed by the department ~~office~~ under s.  
3525 1002.82(2)(q) ~~s. 1002.82(2)(p)~~. These services may include

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3526 family day care, public and private child care programs, the  
 3527 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program, Head Start, the  
 3528 school readiness program, special education programs for  
 3529 prekindergarten children with disabilities, services for  
 3530 children with developmental disabilities, full-time and part-  
 3531 time programs, before-school and after-school programs, and  
 3532 vacation care programs, ~~parent education, the temporary cash~~  
 3533 ~~assistance program, and related family support services.~~ The  
 3534 early learning provider performance profile resource file shall  
 3535 include, but not be limited to:

- 3536 1. Type of program.
- 3537 2. Hours of service.
- 3538 3. Ages of children served.
- 3539 4. Number of children served.
- 3540 5. Program information.
- 3541 6. Fees and eligibility for services.
- 3542 7. Availability of transportation.
- 3543 8. Participation in the Child Care Food Program, if  
 3544 applicable.
- 3545 9. A link to licensing inspection reports, if applicable.
- 3546 10. The components of the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
 3547 Education Program performance metric calculated under s. 1002.68  
 3548 which must consist of the program assessment composite score,  
 3549 learning gains score, achievement score, and its designations,  
 3550 if applicable.

3551 11. The school readiness program assessment composite  
3552 score and program assessment care level composite score results  
3553 delineated by infant classrooms, toddler classrooms, and  
3554 preschool classrooms results under s. 1002.82, if applicable.

3555 12. Gold Seal Quality Care designation under s. 1002.945,  
3556 if applicable.

3557 13. Indication of whether the provider implements a  
3558 curriculum approved by the department and the name of the  
3559 curriculum, if applicable.

3560 14. Participation in the school readiness child assessment  
3561 under s. 1002.82.

3562 (c) Maintenance of ongoing documentation of requests for  
3563 service tabulated through the internal referral process through  
3564 the single statewide information system. The following  
3565 documentation of requests for service shall be maintained by the  
3566 child care resource and referral network:

3567 1. Number of calls and contacts to the child care resource  
3568 information and referral network component by type of service  
3569 requested.

3570 2. Ages of children for whom service was requested.

3571 3. Time category of child care requests for each child.

3572 4. Special time category, such as nights, weekends, and  
3573 swing shift.

3574 5. Reason that the child care is needed.

3575 6. Customer service survey data required under s.

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3576 | ~~1002.82 (3) Name of the employer and primary focus of the~~  
3577 | ~~business for an employer-based child care program.~~

3578 |       (d) Assistance to families that connects them to parent  
3579 | education opportunities, the temporary cash assistance program,  
3580 | or social services programs that support families with children,  
3581 | and related child development support services ~~Provision of~~  
3582 | ~~technical assistance to existing and potential providers of~~  
3583 | ~~child care services. This assistance may include:~~

3584 |       1. ~~Information on initiating new child care services,~~  
3585 | ~~zoning, and program and budget development and assistance in~~  
3586 | ~~finding such information from other sources.~~

3587 |       2. ~~Information and resources which help existing child~~  
3588 | ~~care services providers to maximize their ability to serve~~  
3589 | ~~children and parents in their community.~~

3590 |       3. ~~Information and incentives that may help existing or~~  
3591 | ~~planned child care services offered by public or private~~  
3592 | ~~employers seeking to maximize their ability to serve the~~  
3593 | ~~children of their working parent employees in their community,~~  
3594 | ~~through contractual or other funding arrangements with~~  
3595 | ~~businesses.~~

3596 |       Section 58. Subsection (1) of section 1002.93, Florida  
3597 | Statutes, is amended to read:

3598 |       1002.93 School readiness program transportation services.-

3599 |       (1) The department ~~office~~ may authorize an early learning  
3600 | coalition to establish school readiness program transportation



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3601 services for children at risk of abuse or neglect who are  
3602 participating in the school readiness program, pursuant to  
3603 chapter 427. The early learning coalitions may contract for the  
3604 provision of transportation services as required by this  
3605 section.

3606 Section 59. Section 1002.94, Florida Statutes, is  
3607 repealed.

3608 Section 60. Section 1002.95, Florida Statutes, is amended  
3609 to read:

3610 1002.95 Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (TEACH)  
3611 scholarship program.—

3612 (1) The department ~~office~~ may contract for the  
3613 administration of the Teacher Education and Compensation Helps  
3614 (TEACH) scholarship program, which provides educational  
3615 scholarships to caregivers and administrators of early childhood  
3616 programs, family day care homes, and large family child care  
3617 homes. The goal of the program is to increase the education and  
3618 training for caregivers, increase the compensation for child  
3619 caregivers who complete the program requirements, and reduce the  
3620 rate of participant turnover in the field of early childhood  
3621 education.

3622 (2) The State Board of Education ~~office~~ shall adopt rules  
3623 as necessary to administer this section.

3624 Section 61. Subsections (1) and (3) of section 1002.96,  
3625 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

3626 | 1002.96 Early Head Start collaboration grants.—

3627 | (1) Contingent upon specific appropriation, the department  
 3628 | ~~office~~ shall establish a program to award collaboration grants  
 3629 | to assist local agencies in securing Early Head Start programs  
 3630 | through Early Head Start program federal grants. The  
 3631 | collaboration grants shall provide the required matching funds  
 3632 | for public and private nonprofit agencies that have been  
 3633 | approved for Early Head Start program federal grants.

3634 | (3) The department ~~office~~ may adopt rules as necessary for  
 3635 | the award of collaboration grants to competing agencies and the  
 3636 | administration of the collaboration grants program under this  
 3637 | section.

3638 | Section 62. Subsection (1) and paragraph (g) of subsection  
 3639 | (3) of section 1002.97, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

3640 | 1002.97 Records of children in the school readiness  
 3641 | program.—

3642 | (1) The individual records of children enrolled in the  
 3643 | school readiness program provided under this part, held by an  
 3644 | early learning coalition or the department ~~office~~, are  
 3645 | confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I  
 3646 | of the State Constitution. For purposes of this section, records  
 3647 | include assessment data, health data, records of teacher  
 3648 | observations, and personal identifying information.

3649 | (3) School readiness program records may be released to:

3650 | (g) Parties to an interagency agreement among early

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3651 learning coalitions, local governmental agencies, providers of  
3652 the school readiness program, state agencies, and the department  
3653 ~~office~~ for the purpose of implementing the school readiness  
3654 program.

3655  
3656 Agencies, organizations, or individuals that receive school  
3657 readiness program records in order to carry out their official  
3658 functions must protect the data in a manner that does not permit  
3659 the personal identification of a child enrolled in a school  
3660 readiness program and his or her parent by persons other than  
3661 those authorized to receive the records.

3662 Section 63. Subsections (1) and (3) of section 1002.995,  
3663 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

3664 1002.995 Early learning professional development standards  
3665 and career pathways.—

3666 (1) The department ~~office~~ shall:

3667 (a) Develop early learning professional development  
3668 training and course standards to be utilized for school  
3669 readiness program providers.

3670 (b) Identify both formal and informal early learning  
3671 career pathways with stackable credentials and certifications  
3672 that allow early childhood teachers to access specialized  
3673 professional development that:

- 3674 1. Strengthens knowledge and teaching practices.  
3675 2. Aligns to established professional standards and core

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3676 competencies.

3677 3. Provides a progression of attainable, competency-based  
3678 stackable credentials and certifications.

3679 4. Improves outcomes for children to increase kindergarten  
3680 readiness and early grade success.

3681 (3) The State Board of Education ~~office~~ shall adopt rules  
3682 to administer this section.

3683 Section 64. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section  
3684 1004.096, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

3685 1004.096 Postsecondary credit for military training and  
3686 education courses.—

3687 (2) The Articulation Coordinating Committee shall convene  
3688 a workgroup by July 15, 2020, which is responsible for  
3689 developing a process for determining postsecondary course  
3690 equivalencies and the minimum postsecondary credit or career  
3691 education clock hours that must be awarded for courses taken and  
3692 occupations held by individuals during their service in the  
3693 military.

3694 (b) The Office of K-20 Articulation shall provide  
3695 administrative support for the workgroup.

3696 Section 65. Section 1007.01, Florida Statutes, is amended  
3697 to read:

3698 1007.01 Articulation; legislative intent; purpose; role of  
3699 the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors;  
3700 Articulation Coordinating Committee.—

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3701 (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to facilitate  
3702 articulation and seamless integration of the Early Learning-20  
3703 ~~K-20~~ education system by building, sustaining, and strengthening  
3704 relationships among Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ public organizations,  
3705 between public and private organizations, and between the  
3706 education system as a whole and Florida's communities. The  
3707 purpose of building, sustaining, and strengthening these  
3708 relationships is to provide for the efficient and effective  
3709 progression and transfer of students within the education system  
3710 and to allow students to proceed toward their educational  
3711 objectives as rapidly as their circumstances permit. The  
3712 Legislature further intends that articulation policies and  
3713 budget actions be implemented consistently in the practices of  
3714 the Department of Education and postsecondary educational  
3715 institutions and expressed in the collaborative policy efforts  
3716 of the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors.

3717 (2) To improve and facilitate articulation systemwide, the  
3718 State Board of Education and the Board of Governors shall  
3719 collaboratively establish and adopt policies with input from  
3720 statewide K-20 advisory groups established by the Commissioner  
3721 of Education and the Chancellor of the State University System  
3722 and shall recommend the policies to the Legislature. The  
3723 policies shall relate to:

3724 (a) The alignment between the exit requirements of one  
3725 education system and the admissions requirements of another

3726 | education system into which students typically transfer.

3727 |         (b) The identification of common courses, the level of  
 3728 | courses, institutional participation in a statewide course  
 3729 | numbering system, and the transferability of credits among such  
 3730 | institutions.

3731 |         (c) Identification of courses that meet general education  
 3732 | or common degree program prerequisite requirements at public  
 3733 | postsecondary educational institutions.

3734 |         (d) Dual enrollment course equivalencies.

3735 |         (e) Articulation agreements.

3736 |         (3) The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with  
 3737 | the Chancellor of the State University System, shall establish  
 3738 | the Articulation Coordinating Committee, which shall make  
 3739 | recommendations related to statewide articulation policies and  
 3740 | issues regarding access, quality, and reporting of data  
 3741 | maintained by the educational ~~K-20~~ data warehouse, established  
 3742 | pursuant to ss. 1001.10 and 1008.31, to the Higher Education  
 3743 | Coordination Council, the State Board of Education, and the  
 3744 | Board of Governors. The committee shall consist of two members  
 3745 | each representing the State University System, the Florida  
 3746 | College System, public career and technical education, K-12  
 3747 | education, and nonpublic postsecondary education and one member  
 3748 | representing students. The chair shall be elected from the  
 3749 | membership. The Office of K-20 Articulation shall provide  
 3750 | administrative support for the committee. The committee shall:

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3751 (a) Monitor the alignment between the exit requirements of  
3752 one education system and the admissions requirements of another  
3753 education system into which students typically transfer and make  
3754 recommendations for improvement.

3755 (b) Propose guidelines for interinstitutional agreements  
3756 between and among public schools, career and technical education  
3757 centers, Florida College System institutions, state  
3758 universities, and nonpublic postsecondary institutions.

3759 (c) Annually recommend dual enrollment course and high  
3760 school subject area equivalencies for approval by the State  
3761 Board of Education and the Board of Governors.

3762 (d) Annually review the statewide articulation agreement  
3763 pursuant to s. 1007.23 and make recommendations for revisions.

3764 (e) Annually review the statewide course numbering system,  
3765 the levels of courses, and the application of transfer credit  
3766 requirements among public and nonpublic institutions  
3767 participating in the statewide course numbering system and  
3768 identify instances of student transfer and admissions  
3769 difficulties.

3770 (f) Annually publish a list of courses that meet common  
3771 general education and common degree program prerequisite  
3772 requirements at public postsecondary institutions identified  
3773 pursuant to s. 1007.25.

3774 (g) Foster timely collection and reporting of statewide  
3775 education data to improve the Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education

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3776 performance accountability system pursuant to ss. 1001.10 and  
3777 1008.31, including, but not limited to, data quality,  
3778 accessibility, and protection of student records.

3779 (h) Recommend roles and responsibilities of public  
3780 education entities in interfacing with the single, statewide  
3781 computer-assisted student advising system established pursuant  
3782 to s. 1006.735.

3783 Section 66. Section 1008.2125, Florida Statutes, is  
3784 created to read:

3785 1008.2125 Coordinated screening and progress monitoring  
3786 program for students in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
3787 Program through grade 3.-

3788 (1) The primary purpose of the coordinated screening and  
3789 progress monitoring program for students in the Voluntary  
3790 Prekindergarten Education Program through grade 3 is to provide  
3791 information on students' progress in mastering the appropriate  
3792 grade-level standards and to provide information on their  
3793 progress to parents, teachers, and school and program  
3794 administrators. Data shall be used by Voluntary Prekindergarten  
3795 Education Program providers and school districts to improve  
3796 instruction, by parents and teachers to guide learning  
3797 objectives and provide timely and appropriate supports and  
3798 interventions to students not meeting grade level expectations,  
3799 and by the public to assess the cost benefit of the expenditure  
3800 of taxpayer dollars. The coordinated screening and progress



- 3801 monitoring program must:
- 3802 (a) Assess the progress of students in the Voluntary
- 3803 Prekindergarten Education Program through grade 3 in meeting the
- 3804 appropriate expectations in emergent literacy and math skills
- 3805 and in English Language Arts and mathematics, as required by ss.
- 3806 1002.67(1)(a) and 1003.41.
- 3807 (b) Provide data for accountability of the Voluntary
- 3808 Prekindergarten Education Program, as required by s. 1002.68.
- 3809 (c) Provide baseline data to the department of each
- 3810 student's readiness for kindergarten, which must be based on
- 3811 each kindergarten students progress monitoring results within
- 3812 the first 30 days of enrollment in accordance with paragraph
- 3813 (2)(a). The methodology for determining a student's readiness
- 3814 for kindergarten shall be developed by the same independent
- 3815 expert identified in s. 1002.68(4)(d).
- 3816 (d) Identify the educational strengths and needs of
- 3817 students in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
- 3818 through grade 3.
- 3819 (e) Provide teachers with progress monitoring data to
- 3820 provide timely interventions and supports pursuant to s.
- 3821 1008.25(4).
- 3822 (f) Assess how well educational goals and curricular
- 3823 standards are met at the provider, school, district, and state
- 3824 levels.
- 3825 (g) Provide information to aid in the evaluation and

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3826 development of educational programs and policies.

3827 (2) The Commissioner of Education shall design a

3828 statewide, standardized coordinated screening and progress

3829 monitoring program to assess early literacy and mathematics

3830 skills and the English Language Arts and mathematics standards

3831 established in ss. 1002.67(1)(a) and 1003.41, respectively. The

3832 coordinated screening and progress monitoring program must

3833 provide interval level and norm-referenced data that measures

3834 equivalent levels of growth; be a developmentally appropriate,

3835 valid, and reliable direct assessment; be able to capture data

3836 on students who may be performing below grade or developmental

3837 level and which may enable the identification of early

3838 indicators of dyslexia or other developmental delays; accurately

3839 measure the core content in the applicable grade level

3840 standards; document learning gains for the achievement of these

3841 standards; and provide teachers with progress monitoring

3842 supports and materials that enhance differentiated instruction

3843 and parent communication. Participation in the coordinated

3844 screening and progress monitoring program is mandatory for all

3845 students in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and

3846 enrolled in a public school in kindergarten through grade 3. The

3847 coordinated screening and progress monitoring program shall be

3848 implemented beginning in the 2022-2023 school year for students

3849 in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and

3850 kindergarten students, as follows:

3851        (a) The coordinated screening and progress monitoring  
3852 program shall be administered within the first 30 days after  
3853 enrollment, midyear, and within the last 30 days of the program  
3854 or school year, in accordance with the rules adopted by the  
3855 State Board of Education. The state board may adopt alternate  
3856 timeframes to address nontraditional school year calendars or  
3857 summer programs to ensure administration of the coordinated  
3858 screening and progress monitoring program is administered a  
3859 minimum of 3 times within a year or program.

3860        (b) The results of the coordinated screening and progress  
3861 monitoring program shall be reported to the department, in  
3862 accordance with the rules adopted by the state board, and  
3863 maintained in the department's educational data warehouse.

3864        (3) The Commissioner of Education shall:

3865        (a) Develop a plan, in coordination with the Council for  
3866 Early Grade Success, for implementing the coordinated screening  
3867 and progress monitoring program in consideration of timelines  
3868 for implementing new early literacy and mathematics skills and  
3869 the English Language Arts and mathematics standards established  
3870 in ss. 1002.67(1)(a) and 1003.41, as appropriate.

3871        (b) Provide data, reports, and information as requested to  
3872 the Council for Early Grade Success.

3873        (4) The Council for Early Grade Success, a council defined  
3874 in s. 20.03(7), is created within the Department of Education to  
3875 oversee the coordinated screening and progress monitoring

3876 program and, except as otherwise provided in this section, shall  
3877 operate consistent with s. 20.052.

3878 (a) The council shall be responsible for reviewing the  
3879 implementation of, training for, administration of, and outcomes  
3880 from the coordinated screening and progress monitoring program  
3881 to provide recommendations to the department that supports grade  
3882 3 students reading at or above grade level. The council, at a  
3883 minimum, shall:

3884 1. Provide recommendations on the implementation of the  
3885 coordinated screening and progress monitoring program, including  
3886 reviewing any procurement solicitation documents and criteria  
3887 before being published.

3888 2. Develop training plans and timelines for such training.

3889 3. Identify appropriate personnel, processes, and  
3890 procedures required for the administration of the coordinated  
3891 screening and progress monitoring program.

3892 4. Provide input on the methodology for calculating a  
3893 provider's or school's performance metric and designations under  
3894 s. 1002.68.

3895 5. Work with the department's independent expert under s.  
3896 1002.68(4)(d) to review the methodology for determining a  
3897 child's kindergarten readiness.

3898 6. Review data on age-appropriate learning gains by grade  
3899 level that a student would need to attain in order to  
3900 demonstrate proficiency in reading by grade 3.

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3901 7. Continually review anonymized data from the results of  
3902 the coordinated screening and progress monitoring program for  
3903 students in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program  
3904 through grade 3 to help inform recommendations to the department  
3905 that support practices that will enable grade 3 students to read  
3906 at or above grade level.

3907 (b) The council shall be composed of 15 members who are  
3908 residents of the state and appointed, notwithstanding any other  
3909 provision of law, as follows:

3910 1. Two members appointed by the Governor, as follows:

3911 a. One representative from the Department of Education.

3912 b. One parent of a child who is 4 to 9 years of age.

3913 2. Thirteen members appointed jointly by the President of  
3914 the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives, as  
3915 follows:

3916 a. One representative of an urban school district.

3917 b. One representative of a rural school district.

3918 c. One representative of an urban early learning  
3919 coalition.

3920 d. One representative of a rural early learning coalition.

3921 e. One representative of an early learning provider.

3922 f. One representative of a faith-based early learning  
3923 provider.

3924 g. One representative who is a kindergarten teacher who  
3925 has at least 5 years of teaching experience.

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3926 h. One representative who is a second grade teacher who  
3927 has at least 5 years of teaching experience.

3928 i. One representative who is a school principal.

3929 j. Four representatives with subject matter expertise in  
3930 early learning, early grade success, or child assessments. The  
3931 four representatives with subject matter expertise may not be  
3932 direct stakeholders within the early learning or public school  
3933 systems or potential recipients of a contract resulting from the  
3934 committee's recommendations.

3935 (5) The council shall elect a chair and vice chair, one of  
3936 whom must be a member who has subject matter expertise in early  
3937 learning, early grade success, or child assessments. The vice  
3938 chair must be a member appointed by the President of the Senate  
3939 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives who is not one  
3940 of the four members with subject matter expertise in early  
3941 learning, early grade success, or child assessments appointed  
3942 pursuant to sub-sub-paragraph(b)2.j. Members of the council  
3943 shall serve without compensation but are entitled to  
3944 reimbursement for per diem and travel expenses pursuant to s.  
3945 112.061.

3946 (6) The council must meet at least biannually and may meet  
3947 by teleconference or other electronic means, if possible, to  
3948 reduce costs.

3949 (7) A majority of the members constitutes a quorum.

3950 Section 67. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (5) of

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3951 section 1008.25, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as  
3952 paragraphs (c) and (d), respectively, paragraph (b) of  
3953 subsection (6), subsection (7), and paragraph (a) of subsection  
3954 (8) are amended, and a new paragraph (b) is added to subsection  
3955 (5) of that section, to read:

3956 1008.25 Public school student progression; student  
3957 support; reporting requirements.—

3958 (5) READING DEFICIENCY AND PARENTAL NOTIFICATION.—

3959 (b) A Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program student  
3960 who exhibits a substantial deficiency in early literacy skills  
3961 in accordance with the standards under s. 1002.67(1)(a) and  
3962 based upon the results of the administration of the final  
3963 coordinated screening and progress monitoring under s. 1008.2125  
3964 shall be referred to the local school district and may be  
3965 eligible to receive intensive reading interventions before  
3966 participating in kindergarten. Such intensive reading  
3967 interventions shall be paid for using funds from the district's  
3968 research-based reading instruction allocation in accordance with  
3969 s. 1011.62(9).

3970 (6) ELIMINATION OF SOCIAL PROMOTION.—

3971 (b) The district school board may only exempt students  
3972 from mandatory retention, as provided in paragraph (5)(c)  
3973 ~~(5)(b)~~, for good cause. A student who is promoted to grade 4  
3974 with a good cause exemption shall be provided intensive reading  
3975 instruction and intervention that include specialized diagnostic

3976 information and specific reading strategies to meet the needs of  
3977 each student so promoted. The school district shall assist  
3978 schools and teachers with the implementation of explicit,  
3979 systematic, and multisensory reading instruction and  
3980 intervention strategies for students promoted with a good cause  
3981 exemption which research has shown to be successful in improving  
3982 reading among students who have reading difficulties. Good cause  
3983 exemptions are limited to the following:

3984 1. Limited English proficient students who have had less  
3985 than 2 years of instruction in an English for Speakers of Other  
3986 Languages program based on the initial date of entry into a  
3987 school in the United States.

3988 2. Students with disabilities whose individual education  
3989 plan indicates that participation in the statewide assessment  
3990 program is not appropriate, consistent with the requirements of  
3991 s. 1008.212.

3992 3. Students who demonstrate an acceptable level of  
3993 performance on an alternative standardized reading or English  
3994 Language Arts assessment approved by the State Board of  
3995 Education.

3996 4. A student who demonstrates through a student portfolio  
3997 that he or she is performing at least at Level 2 on the  
3998 statewide, standardized English Language Arts assessment.

3999 5. Students with disabilities who take the statewide,  
4000 standardized English Language Arts assessment and who have an



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4001 individual education plan or a Section 504 plan that reflects  
4002 that the student has received intensive instruction in reading  
4003 or English Language Arts for more than 2 years but still  
4004 demonstrates a deficiency and was previously retained in  
4005 kindergarten, grade 1, grade 2, or grade 3.

4006 6. Students who have received intensive reading  
4007 intervention for 2 or more years but still demonstrate a  
4008 deficiency in reading and who were previously retained in  
4009 kindergarten, grade 1, grade 2, or grade 3 for a total of 2  
4010 years. A student may not be retained more than once in grade 3.

4011 (7) SUCCESSFUL PROGRESSION FOR RETAINED THIRD GRADE  
4012 STUDENTS.—

4013 (a) Students retained under paragraph (5) (c) ~~(5) (b)~~ must  
4014 be provided intensive interventions in reading to ameliorate the  
4015 student's specific reading deficiency and prepare the student  
4016 for promotion to the next grade. These interventions must  
4017 include:

4018 1. Evidence-based, explicit, systematic, and multisensory  
4019 reading instruction in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency,  
4020 vocabulary, and comprehension and other strategies prescribed by  
4021 the school district.

4022 2. Participation in the school district's summer reading  
4023 camp, which must incorporate the instructional and intervention  
4024 strategies under subparagraph 1.

4025 3. A minimum of 90 minutes of daily, uninterrupted reading

4026 instruction incorporating the instructional and intervention  
4027 strategies under subparagraph 1. This instruction may include:

4028       a. Integration of content-rich texts in science and social  
4029 studies within the 90-minute block.

4030       b. Small group instruction.

4031       c. Reduced teacher-student ratios.

4032       d. More frequent progress monitoring.

4033       e. Tutoring or mentoring.

4034       f. Transition classes containing 3rd and 4th grade  
4035 students.

4036       g. Extended school day, week, or year.

4037       (b) Each school district shall:

4038           1. Provide written notification to the parent of a student  
4039 who is retained under paragraph (5) (c) ~~(5) (b)~~ that his or her  
4040 child has not met the proficiency level required for promotion  
4041 and the reasons the child is not eligible for a good cause  
4042 exemption as provided in paragraph (6) (b). The notification must  
4043 comply with paragraph (5) (d) ~~(5) (e)~~ and must include a  
4044 description of proposed interventions and supports that will be  
4045 provided to the child to remediate the identified areas of  
4046 reading deficiency.

4047           2. Implement a policy for the midyear promotion of a  
4048 student retained under paragraph (5) (c) ~~(5) (b)~~ who can  
4049 demonstrate that he or she is a successful and independent  
4050 reader and performing at or above grade level in reading or,

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4051 upon implementation of English Language Arts assessments,  
4052 performing at or above grade level in English Language Arts.  
4053 Tools that school districts may use in reevaluating a student  
4054 retained may include subsequent assessments, alternative  
4055 assessments, and portfolio reviews, in accordance with rules of  
4056 the State Board of Education. Students promoted during the  
4057 school year after November 1 must demonstrate proficiency levels  
4058 in reading equivalent to the level necessary for the beginning  
4059 of grade 4. The rules adopted by the State Board of Education  
4060 must include standards that provide a reasonable expectation  
4061 that the student's progress is sufficient to master appropriate  
4062 grade 4 level reading skills.

4063 3. Provide students who are retained under paragraph  
4064 (5) (c) ~~(5) (b)~~, including students participating in the school  
4065 district's summer reading camp under subparagraph (a)2., with a  
4066 highly effective teacher as determined by the teacher's  
4067 performance evaluation under s. 1012.34, and, beginning July 1,  
4068 2020, the teacher must also be certified or endorsed in reading.

4069 4. Establish at each school, when applicable, an intensive  
4070 reading acceleration course for any student retained in grade 3  
4071 who was previously retained in kindergarten, grade 1, or grade  
4072 2. The intensive reading acceleration course must provide the  
4073 following:

4074 a. Uninterrupted reading instruction for the majority of  
4075 student contact time each day and opportunities to master the

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4076 | grade 4 Next Generation Sunshine State Standards in other core  
 4077 | subject areas through content-rich texts.

4078 |       b. Small group instruction.

4079 |       c. Reduced teacher-student ratios.

4080 |       d. The use of explicit, systematic, and multisensory  
 4081 | reading interventions, including intensive language, phonics,  
 4082 | and vocabulary instruction, and use of a speech-language  
 4083 | therapist if necessary, that have proven results in accelerating  
 4084 | student reading achievement within the same school year.

4085 |       e. A read-at-home plan.

4086 |       (8) ANNUAL REPORT.—

4087 |       (a) In addition to the requirements in paragraph (5) (c)  
 4088 | ~~(5) (b)~~, each district school board must annually report to the  
 4089 | parent of each student the progress of the student toward  
 4090 | achieving state and district expectations for proficiency in  
 4091 | English Language Arts, science, social studies, and mathematics.  
 4092 | The district school board must report to the parent the  
 4093 | student's results on each statewide, standardized assessment.  
 4094 | The evaluation of each student's progress must be based upon the  
 4095 | student's classroom work, observations, tests, district and  
 4096 | state assessments, response to intensive interventions provided  
 4097 | under paragraph (5) (a), and other relevant information. Progress  
 4098 | reporting must be provided to the parent in writing in a format  
 4099 | adopted by the district school board.

4100 |       Section 68. Section 1008.31, Florida Statutes, is amended

4101 to read:

4102 1008.31 Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education  
 4103 performance accountability system; legislative intent; mission,  
 4104 goals, and systemwide measures; data quality improvements.—

4105 (1) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.—It is the intent of the  
 4106 Legislature that:

4107 (a) The performance accountability system implemented to  
 4108 assess the effectiveness of Florida's seamless Early Learning-20  
 4109 ~~K-20~~ education delivery system provide answers to the following  
 4110 questions in relation to its mission and goals:

4111 1. What is the public receiving in return for funds it  
 4112 invests in education?

4113 2. How effectively is Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~  
 4114 education system educating its students?

4115 3. How effectively are the major delivery sectors  
 4116 promoting student achievement?

4117 4. How are individual schools and postsecondary education  
 4118 institutions performing their responsibility to educate their  
 4119 students as measured by how students are performing and how much  
 4120 they are learning?

4121 (b) The Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education performance  
 4122 accountability system be established as a single, unified  
 4123 accountability system with multiple components, including, but  
 4124 not limited to, student performance in public schools and school  
 4125 and district grades.

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4126 (c) The K-20 education performance accountability system  
4127 comply with the requirements of the "No Child Left Behind Act of  
4128 2001," Pub. L. No. 107-110, and the Individuals with  
4129 Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

4130 (d) The early learning accountability system comply with  
4131 the requirements of part V and part VI of chapter 1002 and the  
4132 requirements of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Trust  
4133 Fund, pursuant to 45 C.F.R. parts 98 and 99.

4134 (e)~~(d)~~ The State Board of Education and the Board of  
4135 Governors of the State University System recommend to the  
4136 Legislature systemwide performance standards; the Legislature  
4137 establish systemwide performance measures and standards; and the  
4138 systemwide measures and standards provide Floridians with  
4139 information on what the public is receiving in return for the  
4140 funds it invests in education and how well the Early Learning-20  
4141 ~~K-20~~ system educates its students.

4142 (f)1.~~(e)1.~~ The State Board of Education establish  
4143 performance measures and set performance standards for  
4144 individual public schools and Florida College System  
4145 institutions, with measures and standards based primarily on  
4146 student achievement.

4147 2. The Board of Governors of the State University System  
4148 establish performance measures and set performance standards for  
4149 individual state universities, including actual completion  
4150 rates.

4151 (2) MISSION, GOALS, AND SYSTEMWIDE MEASURES.—

4152 (a) The mission of Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~  
 4153 education system shall be to increase the proficiency of all  
 4154 students within one seamless, efficient system, by allowing them  
 4155 the opportunity to expand their knowledge and skills through  
 4156 learning opportunities and research valued by students, parents,  
 4157 and communities.

4158 (b) The process for establishing state and sector-specific  
 4159 standards and measures must be:

- 4160 1. Focused on student success.
- 4161 2. Addressable through policy and program changes.
- 4162 3. Efficient and of high quality.
- 4163 4. Measurable over time.
- 4164 5. Simple to explain and display to the public.
- 4165 6. Aligned with other measures and other sectors to  
 4166 support a coordinated Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system.

4167 (c) The Department of Education shall maintain an  
 4168 accountability system that measures student progress toward the  
 4169 following goals:

- 4170 1. Highest student achievement, as indicated by evidence  
 4171 of student learning gains at all levels.
- 4172 2. Seamless articulation and maximum access, as measured  
 4173 by evidence of progression, readiness, and access by targeted  
 4174 groups of students identified by the Commissioner of Education.
- 4175 3. Skilled workforce and economic development, as measured

4176 by evidence of employment and earnings.

4177 4. Quality efficient services, as measured by evidence of  
4178 return on investment.

4179 5. Other goals as identified by law or rule.

4180 (3) ~~K-20~~ EDUCATION DATA QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS.—To provide  
4181 data required to implement education performance accountability  
4182 measures in state and federal law, the Commissioner of Education  
4183 shall initiate and maintain strategies to improve data quality  
4184 and timeliness. The Board of Governors shall make available to  
4185 the department all data within the State University Database  
4186 System to be integrated into the educational ~~K-20~~ data  
4187 warehouse. The commissioner shall have unlimited access to such  
4188 data for the purposes of conducting studies, reporting annual  
4189 and longitudinal student outcomes, and improving college  
4190 readiness and articulation. All public educational institutions  
4191 shall annually provide data from the prior year to the  
4192 educational ~~K-20~~ data warehouse in a format based on data  
4193 elements identified by the commissioner.

4194 (a) School districts and public postsecondary educational  
4195 institutions shall maintain information systems that will  
4196 provide the State Board of Education, the Board of Governors of  
4197 the State University System, and the Legislature with  
4198 information and reports necessary to address the specifications  
4199 of the accountability system. The level of comprehensiveness and  
4200 quality must be no less than that which was available as of June



4201 30, 2001.

4202 (b) Colleges and universities eligible to participate in  
 4203 the William L. Boyd, IV, Effective Access to Student Education  
 4204 Grant Program shall annually report student-level data from the  
 4205 prior year for each student who receives state funds in a format  
 4206 prescribed by the Department of Education. At a minimum, data  
 4207 from the prior year must include retention rates, transfer  
 4208 rates, completion rates, graduation rates, employment and  
 4209 placement rates, and earnings of graduates. By October 1 of each  
 4210 year, the colleges and universities described in this paragraph  
 4211 shall report the data to the department.

4212 (c) The Commissioner of Education shall determine the  
 4213 standards for the required data, monitor data quality, and  
 4214 measure improvements. The commissioner shall report annually to  
 4215 the State Board of Education, the Board of Governors of the  
 4216 State University System, the President of the Senate, and the  
 4217 Speaker of the House of Representatives data quality indicators  
 4218 and ratings for all school districts and public postsecondary  
 4219 educational institutions.

4220 (d) Before establishing any new reporting or data  
 4221 collection requirements, the commissioner shall use existing  
 4222 data being collected to reduce duplication and minimize  
 4223 paperwork.

4224 (4) RULES.—The State Board of Education shall adopt rules  
 4225 pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement the

4226 provisions of this section relating to the educational ~~K-20~~ data  
 4227 warehouse.

4228 Section 69. Section 1008.32, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 4229 to read:

4230 1008.32 State Board of Education oversight enforcement  
 4231 authority.—The State Board of Education shall oversee the  
 4232 performance of early learning coalitions, district school  
 4233 boards, and Florida College System institution boards of  
 4234 trustees in enforcement of all laws and rules. District school  
 4235 boards and Florida College System institution boards of trustees  
 4236 shall be primarily responsible for compliance with law and state  
 4237 board rule.

4238 (1) In order to ensure compliance with law or state board  
 4239 rule, the State Board of Education shall have the authority to  
 4240 request and receive information, data, and reports from early  
 4241 learning coalitions, school districts, and Florida College  
 4242 System institutions. Early Learning Coalition chief executive  
 4243 officers or executive directors, district school  
 4244 superintendents, and Florida College System institution  
 4245 presidents are responsible for the accuracy of the information  
 4246 and data reported to the state board.

4247 (2) (a) The Commissioner of Education may investigate  
 4248 allegations of noncompliance with law or state board rule and  
 4249 determine probable cause. The commissioner shall report  
 4250 determinations of probable cause to the State Board of Education

4251 | which shall require the early learning coalition, district  
 4252 | school board, or Florida College System institution board of  
 4253 | trustees to document compliance with law or state board rule.

4254 | (b) The Commissioner of Education shall report to the  
 4255 | State Board of Education any findings by the Auditor General  
 4256 | that an early learning coalition, ~~a~~ district school board, or  
 4257 | Florida College System institution is acting without statutory  
 4258 | authority or contrary to general law. The State Board of  
 4259 | Education shall require the early learning coalition, district  
 4260 | school board, or Florida College System institution board of  
 4261 | trustees to document compliance with such law.

4262 | (3) If the early learning coalition, district school  
 4263 | board, or Florida College System institution board of trustees  
 4264 | cannot satisfactorily document compliance, the State Board of  
 4265 | Education may order compliance within a specified timeframe.

4266 | (4) If the State Board of Education determines that an  
 4267 | early learning coalition, ~~a~~ district school board, or Florida  
 4268 | College System institution board of trustees is unwilling or  
 4269 | unable to comply with law or state board rule within the  
 4270 | specified time, the state board shall have the authority to  
 4271 | initiate any of the following actions:

4272 | (a) Report to the Legislature that the early learning  
 4273 | coalition, school district, or Florida College System  
 4274 | institution is unwilling or unable to comply with law or state  
 4275 | board rule and recommend action to be taken by the Legislature.

4276 (b) Withhold the transfer of state funds, discretionary  
 4277 grant funds, discretionary lottery funds, or any other funds  
 4278 specified as eligible for this purpose by the Legislature until  
 4279 the early learning coalition, school district, or Florida  
 4280 College System institution complies with the law or state board  
 4281 rule.

4282 (c) Declare the early learning coalition, school district,  
 4283 or Florida College System institution ineligible for competitive  
 4284 grants.

4285 (d) Require monthly or periodic reporting on the situation  
 4286 related to noncompliance until it is remedied.

4287 (5) Nothing in this section shall be construed to create a  
 4288 private cause of action or create any rights for individuals or  
 4289 entities in addition to those provided elsewhere in law or rule.

4290 Section 70. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section  
 4291 1008.33, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

4292 1008.33 Authority to enforce public school improvement.—

4293 (3) (a) The academic performance of all students has a  
 4294 significant effect on the state school system. Pursuant to Art.  
 4295 IX of the State Constitution, which prescribes the duty of the  
 4296 State Board of Education to supervise Florida's public school  
 4297 system, the state board shall equitably enforce the  
 4298 accountability requirements of the state school system and may  
 4299 impose state requirements on school districts in order to  
 4300 improve the academic performance of all districts, schools, and

4301 students based upon the provisions of the Florida Early  
 4302 Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ Education Code, chapters 1000-1013; the federal  
 4303 ESEA and its implementing regulations; and the ESEA flexibility  
 4304 waiver approved for Florida by the United States Secretary of  
 4305 Education.

4306 Section 71. Subsection (9) of section 1011.62, Florida  
 4307 Statutes, is amended to read:

4308 1011.62 Funds for operation of schools.—If the annual  
 4309 allocation from the Florida Education Finance Program to each  
 4310 district for operation of schools is not determined in the  
 4311 annual appropriations act or the substantive bill implementing  
 4312 the annual appropriations act, it shall be determined as  
 4313 follows:

4314 (9) RESEARCH-BASED READING INSTRUCTION ALLOCATION.—

4315 (a) The research-based reading instruction allocation is  
 4316 created to provide comprehensive reading instruction to students  
 4317 in kindergarten through grade 12, including certain students who  
 4318 exhibit a substantial deficiency in early literacy and completed  
 4319 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program under s.

4320 1008.25(5)(b). Each school district that has one or more of the  
 4321 300 lowest-performing elementary schools based on a 3-year  
 4322 average of the state reading assessment data must use the  
 4323 school's portion of the allocation to provide an additional hour  
 4324 per day of intensive reading instruction for the students in  
 4325 each school. The additional hour may be provided within the

4326 school day. Students enrolled in these schools who earned a  
4327 level 4 or level 5 score on the statewide, standardized English  
4328 Language Arts assessment for the previous school year may  
4329 participate in the additional hour of instruction. Exceptional  
4330 student education centers may not be included in the 300  
4331 schools. The intensive reading instruction delivered in this  
4332 additional hour shall include: research-based reading  
4333 instruction that has been proven to accelerate progress of  
4334 students exhibiting a reading deficiency; differentiated  
4335 instruction based on screening, diagnostic, progress monitoring,  
4336 or student assessment data to meet students' specific reading  
4337 needs; explicit and systematic reading strategies to develop  
4338 phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and  
4339 comprehension, with more extensive opportunities for guided  
4340 practice, error correction, and feedback; and the integration of  
4341 social studies, science, and mathematics-text reading, text  
4342 discussion, and writing in response to reading.

4343 (b) Funds for comprehensive, research-based reading  
4344 instruction shall be allocated annually to each school district  
4345 in the amount provided in the General Appropriations Act. Each  
4346 eligible school district shall receive the same minimum amount  
4347 as specified in the General Appropriations Act, and any  
4348 remaining funds shall be distributed to eligible school  
4349 districts based on each school district's proportionate share of  
4350 K-12 base funding.

4351 (c) Funds allocated under this subsection must be used to  
 4352 provide a system of comprehensive reading instruction to  
 4353 students enrolled in the K-12 programs and certain students who  
 4354 exhibit a substantial deficiency in early literacy and completed  
 4355 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program pursuant to s.  
 4356 1008.25(5)(b), which may include the following:

4357 1. An additional hour per day of evidence-based intensive  
 4358 reading instruction to students in the 300 lowest-performing  
 4359 elementary schools by teachers and reading specialists who have  
 4360 demonstrated effectiveness in teaching reading as required in  
 4361 paragraph (a).

4362 2. Kindergarten through grade 5 evidence-based ~~reading~~  
 4363 ~~intervention teachers to provide~~ intensive reading interventions  
 4364 provided by reading intervention teachers ~~intervention~~ during  
 4365 the school day and in the required extra hour for students  
 4366 identified as having a reading deficiency.

4367 3. Highly qualified reading coaches to specifically  
 4368 support teachers in making instructional decisions based on  
 4369 student data, and improve teacher delivery of effective reading  
 4370 instruction, intervention, and reading in the content areas  
 4371 based on student need.

4372 4. Professional development for school district teachers  
 4373 in scientifically based reading instruction, including  
 4374 strategies to teach reading in content areas and with an  
 4375 emphasis on technical and informational text, to help school

4376 district teachers earn a certification or an endorsement in  
4377 reading.

4378 5. Summer reading camps, using only teachers or other  
4379 district personnel who are certified or endorsed in reading  
4380 consistent with s. 1008.25(7)(b)3., for all students in  
4381 kindergarten through grade 2 who demonstrate a reading  
4382 deficiency as determined by district and state assessments, ~~and~~  
4383 students in grades 3 through 5 who score at Level 1 on the  
4384 statewide, standardized English Language Arts assessment, and  
4385 certain students who exhibit a substantial deficiency in early  
4386 literacy and completed the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
4387 Program under s. 1008.25(5)(b).

4388 6. Scientifically researched and evidence-based  
4389 supplemental instructional materials ~~that are grounded in~~  
4390 ~~scientifically based reading research~~ as identified by the Just  
4391 Read, Florida! Office pursuant to s. 1001.215(8).

4392 7. Evidence-based intensive interventions for students in  
4393 kindergarten through grade 12 who have been identified as having  
4394 a reading deficiency or who are reading below grade level as  
4395 determined by the statewide, standardized English Language Arts  
4396 assessment or for certain students who exhibit a substantial  
4397 deficiency in early literacy and completed the Voluntary  
4398 Prekindergarten Education Program under s. 1008.25(5)(b).

4399 (d)1. Annually, by a date determined by the Department of  
4400 Education but before May 1, school districts shall submit a ~~K-12~~



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4401 comprehensive reading plan for the specific use of the research-  
4402 based reading instruction allocation in the format prescribed by  
4403 the department for review and approval by the Just Read,  
4404 Florida! Office created pursuant to s. 1001.215. The plan  
4405 annually submitted by school districts shall be deemed approved  
4406 unless the department rejects the plan on or before June 1. If a  
4407 school district and the Just Read, Florida! Office cannot reach  
4408 agreement on the contents of the plan, the school district may  
4409 appeal to the State Board of Education for resolution. School  
4410 districts shall be allowed reasonable flexibility in designing  
4411 their plans and shall be encouraged to offer reading  
4412 intervention through innovative methods, including career  
4413 academies. The plan format shall be developed with input from  
4414 school district personnel, including teachers and principals,  
4415 and shall provide for intensive reading interventions through  
4416 integrated curricula, provided that, beginning with the 2020-  
4417 2021 school year, the interventions are delivered by a teacher  
4418 who is certified or endorsed in reading. Such interventions must  
4419 incorporate evidence-based strategies identified by the Just  
4420 Read, Florida! Office pursuant to s. 1001.215(8). No later than  
4421 July 1 annually, the department shall release the school  
4422 district's allocation of appropriated funds to those districts  
4423 having approved plans. A school district that spends 100 percent  
4424 of this allocation on its approved plan shall be deemed to have  
4425 been in compliance with the plan. The department may withhold

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4426 funds upon a determination that reading instruction allocation  
4427 funds are not being used to implement the approved plan. The  
4428 department shall monitor and track the implementation of each  
4429 district plan, including conducting site visits and collecting  
4430 specific data on expenditures and reading improvement results.  
4431 By February 1 of each year, the department shall report its  
4432 findings to the Legislature.

4433 2. Each school district that has a school designated as  
4434 one of the 300 lowest-performing elementary schools as specified  
4435 in paragraph (a) shall specifically delineate in the  
4436 comprehensive reading plan, or in an addendum to the  
4437 comprehensive reading plan, the implementation design and  
4438 reading intervention strategies that will be used for the  
4439 required additional hour of reading instruction. The term  
4440 "reading intervention" includes evidence-based strategies  
4441 frequently used to remediate reading deficiencies and also  
4442 includes individual instruction, tutoring, mentoring, or the use  
4443 of technology that targets specific reading skills and  
4444 abilities.

4445  
4446 For purposes of this subsection, the term "evidence-based" means  
4447 demonstrating a statistically significant effect on improving  
4448 student outcomes or other relevant outcomes.

4449 Section 72. For the 2022-2023 fiscal year, the sum of  
4450 \$3,088,000 in recurring funds is appropriated from the General

4451 Revenue Fund to the Department of Education to implement the  
4452 coordinated screening and progress monitoring program required  
4453 by s. 1008.2125, Florida Statutes. Of these funds, \$3 million  
4454 shall be placed in reserve. The department is authorized to  
4455 submit budget amendments requesting the release of funds  
4456 pursuant to chapter 216, Florida Statutes. The budget amendment  
4457 shall include a detailed operational work plan and spending  
4458 plan. The department shall submit quarterly updates to the plans  
4459 and quarterly project status reports to the Office of Policy and  
4460 Budget in the Executive Office of the Governor and the chairs of  
4461 the Senate Committee on Appropriations and the House of  
4462 Representatives Appropriations Committee. Each status report  
4463 must include progress made to date for each project activity,  
4464 planned and actual tasks and deliverable completion dates,  
4465 planned and actual costs incurred, and any current issues and  
4466 risks.

4467       Section 73. For the 2021-2022 fiscal year, the sum of  
4468 \$100,000 in nonrecurring funds is appropriated from the General  
4469 Revenue Fund to the Department of Education to issue a  
4470 competitive solicitation to contract with an independent third  
4471 party consulting firm to conduct a review of the school  
4472 readiness payment rates by county, provider type, and care  
4473 level. The review shall include an evaluation of the current  
4474 methodology for establishing the market rate schedule pursuant  
4475 to s. 1002.895, Florida Statutes, the current school readiness

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4476 payment rates, and the impact of the approved pay differentials  
4477 authorized under part VI of chapter 1002, Florida Statutes, on  
4478 the payment rates. The review shall include recommendations on a  
4479 methodology for setting the payment rates by county, by provider  
4480 type, and by care level that takes into consideration the impact  
4481 that local ordinances may have on the market rate if such  
4482 ordinances require more stringent staff-to-child ratios than  
4483 required in s. 402.305(4), Florida Statutes, but may not  
4484 consider school readiness wait lists as a factor. The department  
4485 shall submit the results of the review and the recommendations  
4486 to the Governor's Office of Policy and Budget and the chairs of  
4487 the Senate Committee on Appropriations and the House of  
4488 Representatives Appropriations Committee by January 1, 2022.

4489       Section 74. For the 2021-2022 fiscal year, the sum of  
4490 \$677,759 in recurring funds is appropriated from the General  
4491 Revenue Fund to the Department of Education to assist in the  
4492 implementation of s. 1002.68(2), Florida Statutes.

4493       Section 75. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
4494 law.